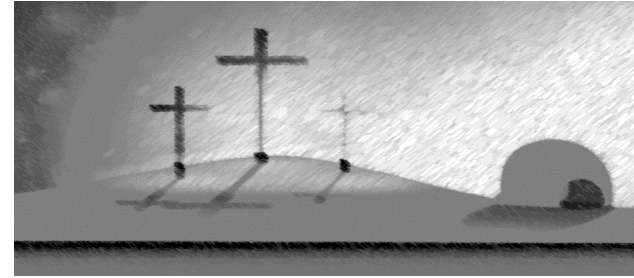




RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

Good Friday – March 29, 2024

10:30 a.m.



Prelude Sherry Steele

Welcome / Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* VU 135

Unison Prayer (*Celebrate God's Presence, adapted*) Patti Hunter

Gracious God, present in all grief and suffering, this Friday seems "good" for all the wrong reasons. Be with us in these hours as we gather in the shadow of the cross, hearing the story of Jesus' death.

This is not where we would choose to be, brought face to face with this symbol of death and instrument of torture.

Forgive us where we have sought to avoid such times: where we have ignored the cross or denied our own pain or turned our backs on the suffering of others.

Strengthen us to be here today, present in it all, trusting in your presence.

Grant us faith to walk into the emptiness of this day in order to fully receive the gift of Easter.

**May we always know that we are not alone.
You are with us.
For this we give thanks.
This we call "good."
Amen.**

Reflection "Through the Darkness" Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn *O Sacred Head* VU 145

Scripture: John 18: 33-37; John 19: 1-3

Hymn *Don't Be Afraid* MV 90

Scripture John 19: 4-7

Hymn *Don't Be Afraid* MV 90

Scripture John 19: 8-12

Hymn *Jesus, Remember Me (Sung twice)* VU 148

Scripture John 19: 13-19

Anthem *They Crucified My Lord (J. Martin)* RUC Choir

Scripture John 19: 23-25a

Hymn *What Wondrous Love* vss. 1-2 VU 147

Scripture John 19: 25b-27

Hymn *What Wondrous Love* vss. 3-4 VU 147

Scripture John 19: 28-30

Hymn *Were You There* VU 144

You are invited to leave in silence when ready.

*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able