



Haslett Community Church
 United Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 217 · 1427 Haslett Rd. · Haslett, MI 48840

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Our Vision: *We strive joyfully and prayerfully to warmly welcome all, freely share our blessings, and humbly explore God's love.*

Holy Week - Good Friday
March 29, 2024 7:00pm

*When you see an *, you are invited to stand as you are able. When text is in bold, you are invited to speak aloud. When text is in **bold**, you are invited to speak aloud.*

Gathering

Welcome and Invitation (by Ann Siddall)

Prelude

“O Lamb of God”

Paris

Call to Worship (by John Birch)

This is love.

**That you spoke words of comfort,
 walked with the unclean and unloved,
 shared wisdom, bread and wine,
 brought healing into lives
 and challenged the status quo.**

This is love.

**It is a seed
 sown in the ground,
 which germinates,
 blossoms,
 and spreads its sweet perfume.**

This is love.

**That you spoke the word of God,
 walked a painful road to the Cross,
 shared living water, bread of life,
 brought Salvation to the world
 and died for the sake of all.**

*** Hymn**

“O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench”

Leach, 1989

(please see last page - **Sing vs 1,4, & 5**; Choir Only on vs. 2 & 3)

Billings, 1794

Prayer of Approach

O Holy God,
 the hosannas have died away,
 the palm branches have turned brittle.
**Now, today, there is only this –
 each of us,
 all of us,
 sitting in the darkness,
 the hymns of lament in the air,
 the mumblings of our own feeble confession,
 on this Friday
 which we tremble to call Good.**

When suffering reigns, yours is the first heart to break.
 When despair lurks about, we remember that you were
 there first,
 peering into the abyss and crying out, incredibly:
 “Father, forgive them.”
**When we feel forsaken, we remember that in your last
 moments,
 you cared for your mother and your beloved disciple,
 binding them to one another as a new family.**

(continued...)

When we feel overcome by guilt, we remember that you spoke grace to a thief:
“Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Your love for us is just that boundless, and ever-present, and good.

Thank you.

What else can we say here, in the dimness,
in the darkness,
but thank you.

Amen.

Hymn Response

“By Your Cross”

Taizé

By your cross and all the wounds you suffered,
grant us freedom in your love, grant us freedom in your love,
grant us freedom in your love, in your love.

First Reading

Mark 15: 16-24

Then the soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard of the palace, and they called together the whole cohort.
¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him.
¹⁸ And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Anthem

“Father, Forgive Them”

Choplin

Second Reading

Mark 15: 25-39

It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷ And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

(continued...)

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah. ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Sermon "The Beautiful and the Terrible"

Hymn Response #192 "When Jesus Wept" Billing
(sung as a round)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (from the Iona Community)

Creator and Kin, as near as breath and yet far beyond our understanding, holy is your name. Your new reality come, your justice be done, here and now. May we feed each other as you feed us. You hold us in grace when we don't 'get it,' may we hold others in grace, too. May we resist complacency and strive for peace, for all people, and all times. Amen.

* **Benediction** (by Jan Richardson)

Please exit in silence.



We worship every Sunday at 10:00 am, and you are welcome to join us.



Holy Week 2024



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ



March 24 10 a.m. Palm Sunday with Palms to Wave



March 28 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday with Communion



March 29 7 p.m. Good Friday with Choir



March 31 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

10 a.m. Easter Sunday with Choir

all services in person · all but easter sunrise & maundy thurs also live-streamed
haslettcommunitychurch.org for livestream and more info

Tonight's Worship Team:

Rev. Betsy Aho	Pastor	aho.betsy@att.net	517.339.8383 x11
Rev. Erin Heisler	Minister for Youth & Children	erin.heisler@att.net	517.339.8383 x19
Barbara Freeman	Piano & Organ		
Landon Black	Choral Intern		

Our thanks this evening to:

Greeters / Ushers Malinda Barr & Ann McGrath

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When Jesus Wept

192

William Billings, 1770

John 11:35

1 When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy

flowed be - yond all bound; When Je - sus groaned, a

trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round.

William Billings served as choir leader at Old South Church (Congregational) in Boston. A self-taught singing-school teacher and composer, he also worked as a tanner. "When Jesus Wept" is especially beautiful when sung as a canon, with groups entering as indicated by the numbers above.

Tune: WHEN JESUS WEPT L.M.
William Billings, 1770
New England Psalm Singer

[\(Back\)](#)

O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench 162

1 O car - pen - ter, why leave the bench where
2 O car - pen - ter, why leave the tools to
3 O car - pen - ter, why leave the world of
4 O car - pen - ter, why leave re - pairs with
5 O car - pen - ter, who else could do the

wood yields to your art, and take in - stead, to
car - ry out your plans, and go in - stead to
ta - ble, bed, and house, to face the em - pire's
wood and clamp and glue, and rise from death to
work that you have done? What can we do but

try your skill, the ston - y hu - man heart?
do God's work with emp - ty, o - pen hands?
car - pen - try, to lift a Ro - man cross?
seek in - stead to make the whole world new?
sing your praise, O Sav - ior, Mar - y's son!

By dismissing Jesus as "the carpenter" (Mark 6:3) or "the carpenter's son" (Matthew 13:55), his neighbors convinced themselves that they could ignore his teaching. This reflective text explores the distance between that humble craft and the great importance of Christ's true work.