

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Friday, April 3, 2026
Good Friday
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

We Gather in Silence *you may pick up a nail and/or stone*

Centering Music: "O God, We Call" VU 411

*** Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:** *(responsive)*

One: We gather on a day that is different from others.

**All: Signs of spring and new life surround us,
but today we are witnesses to death.**

One: Today we share a story of betrayal and execution,

All: we share a tale of tragedy and pain.

One: We tell a story of power and oppression,

All: but ultimately a story of love.

One: Today we pray, we ponder, and we experience
and we lift our hearts to God -

**All: Holy One, help us to enter into the darkness
of Good Friday, and lead us to listen deeply and
encounter the story with fresh understanding.
Open our hearts and spirits to your presence,
and help us to find your peace and purpose between
the words of denial, of accusation,
of truth denied and ignored.
Keep the light of hope alive in our hearts on this Friday we call Good, as we walk
together
with Christ to the cross and beyond.
Amen.**

* Opening Hymn: "We Walk with Faith and Passion" *(tune VU 145)*

Prayer for Reflection and Confession:

Sung Response: "Senzeni Na?" MV 66

Words of Assurance

One: Hear these words of comfort and love:
In life, in death, in life beyond death
God is with us, we are not alone.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Passion Narrative:

John 18:1-19:42 *The Inclusive Bible*
Musical Reflection: "Thy Will Be Done"

John 18:12-27

Sung Response: "Bitter Was the Night" VU 132 verses 1, 3, 6

John 18:28-38a

Sung Response: "Senzeni Na?" MV 66

John 18:38, 19:1-16

Sung Response: "Senzeni Na?" MV 66

John 19:17-22

Musical reflection: "Who Is the Man?"

John 19:23-27

Poem for Reflection: "Even Now" by Ann Weems

John 19:28-30

a moment of silence

Sung Response: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" VU 144 verse 1

John 19:31-37

Sung Response: "Were you there when they pierced him in the side?" VU 144 verse 4

John 19:38-42

Sung Response: "Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?" VU 144 verse 5

Prayers of the People based on a prayer by John Vest, adapted

* **Closing Hymn:** "The Stone" (tune 'O Waly Waly')

Closing Words:

One: We have witnessed the story,
the cross now stands empty.

**All: We have heard the tale told,
and the tomb has now been filled.**

One: With hollow hearts we carry the stones of loss and regret.

All: We carry the nails that can build or tear.

One: Can we also carry hope?

All: May God bless our steps to Easter's dawn.

*We depart in silence ... as we are ready
You are invited to place your stone and your nail
at the foot of the cross as you leave.
Our service concludes on Sunday morning.*

*Baskets for your Good Friday or Easter offerings
can be found in the Narthex*