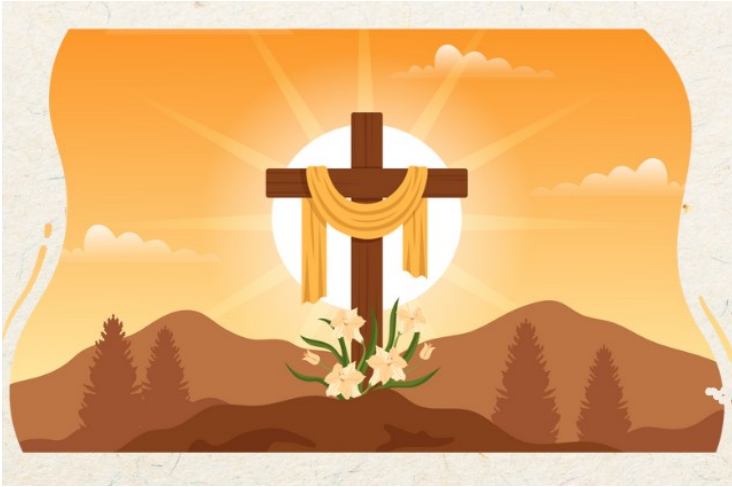


*Appleton Area  
Ecumenical  
Good Friday Service*



*April 18, 2025  
12:00 pm*

*"I am deeply grieved, even to death;  
remain here, and stay awake with me."  
- Matthew, 26:38*

**April 18, 2025**

**Prelude** - Dr. Steve Sieck and Heather Watney

**Welcome & Introductions** - Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave

**Contextual Invitation** - Rev. Christina Leone-Tracy

**Reading of the Scripture** - Matthew Chapter 26,  
Verses 36-56, Rev. Mary Bauer

**Hymn** - *What Wondrous Love*, #18,  
Dr. Steve Sieck and Heather Watney

**Section I - Verses 36-38**, Rev. Nick Hatch

ONE - *...He took with him Peter and the two sons of  
Zebedee, he said to them,*

ALL - *"I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain  
here, and stay awake with me."*

**The Story Today** - Rev. Markus Wegenast

**Hymn** - *Abide With Me*, #101,  
Dr. Steve Sieck and Heather Watney

**Section II - Verses 39-41**, Rev. Kemp Jones

ONE - *...Then he came to the disciples and found them  
sleeping; and he said to Peter,*

ALL - *"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?  
See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is  
betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let  
us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."*

**Responsive Prayer** - Adapted from *A Litany for Making a  
Home with and for Refugees and Migrants*  
by Tony Huynh, Rev. Dr. Mike Goodwin

ONE: Lord God, your people have always been on the move, like Moses and the Israelites, fleeing bondage in Pharaoh's land. Like Joseph and Mary, they were on the run from violent rulers like King Herod. Today, at the foot of the cross, we pray for all those whose suffering causes them to seek refuge and for those who dream of a new beginning.

ONE: So, God of the sojourners, we ask that you give them shelter. Protect them as they are vulnerable.

**ALL: God of caravans, we pray for our siblings' protection. Provide for them as you once did for your children in the desert.**

ONE: God of sojourners, we ask that you give them shelter. Protect them as they are vulnerable.

**ALL: God of travelers, we ask that you guide them on their journey. Make clear their paths and direct their feet.**

ONE: God of the exiled, we ask that you cover them with your wings. Let them know they are not alone.

**ALL: God of immigrants, we ask that you bless them and give them your peace. Grant them passage, opening doors and borders for their entry.**

ONE: God of asylum seekers, we ask for deliverance from danger and violence. Grant them liberation from war and poverty.

**ALL: God of refugees, we ask for your mercy. Remind us that you were once a refugee.**

ONE: God of weary travelers, we ask for forgiveness for the times we have closed our homes and hearts.

**ALL: God who is their God, God who is my God, God who is our God, teach us to welcome all your children and to see their suffering in the light of Christ's suffering.**

ONE: God, who has crossed the border between divinity and humanity, teach us to leave behind our comfort.

**ALL: God who took on flesh, teach us to love as you have loved us and teach us to be willing and vulnerable like you. Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us all. Amen.**

**The Story Today - Rev. Ben Morris**

**Section IV - Verses 47-56 - Rev. Brian Bankert**

*ONE - ...At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."*

*ALL - Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.*

## **Offering Help & Hope Together -**

Hilary Haskell & Rev. Dr. Katherine Willis Pershey

Please drop cash or check payable to FVUUF with  
Help & Hope in the memo line in the collection  
basket.

Offertory - "Go to Dark Gethsemane",

by Matthew Culloton, offered by the

Ecumenical Choir, with Rev. Tim Navis, piano

**Scripture - The Crucifixion** - Rev. Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 27, verses 45-51

## **Closing Prayer**

**Adapted from *A Prayer for Perpetrators***

**by Michelle Thorne Mejia** - Rev. Timothy Navis

ONE: ...So Jesus lived and died, staying true to  
what he asks of others.

**ALL: "Love your enemies and pray for those who  
persecute you."**

ONE: ...They, too, are in need of your grace, your  
love, and your healing light.

**ALL: They know not what they do.**

ONE: ...Not only do they not know what they do,  
but they also do not know what they need.

**ALL: So we pray with Jesus, "Father, forgive  
them."**

ONE: ...keep us from casting our own stones of anger, hatred, bitterness, and retaliation.

**ALL: The darkness cannot compare to the power of the light.**

ONE: May we be your light. May we be catchers of stones and not casters of stones. May we learn to love and forgive the way that you showed us how to love. May our work for justice include loving our enemies and praying for those who would persecute or harm us.

**ALL: May our presence bring healing to this world, in the name of Jesus the Christ. May it be so. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn - *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?***  
- Dr. Steve Sieck and Heather Watney

1 Were you there when they *crucified my Lord?* (2x)

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they *crucified my Lord?*

2 Were you there when they *nailed him to the tree?*

3 Were you there when they *laid him in the tomb?*

*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service  
for gathering, conversation, and refreshments.*

## PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Shola Adegbite - Lawrence University Center for Spiritual  
and Religious Life

Rev. Brian Bankert - Trinity Lutheran Church Appleton

Rev. Mary Bauer - First English Lutheran Church

Rev. Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer, Zion Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Mike Goodwin - Memorial Presbyterian Church

Hilary Haskell, Director - Hope & Help Together

Rev. Nick Hatch - First Congregational UCC Appleton

Rev. Christina Leone-Tracy - Fox Valley Unitarian

Universalist Fellowship

Rev. Ben Morris - United Methodist (Emmanuel St. James)

Rev. Kemp Jones - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Appleton

Rev. Timothy Navis - First United Methodist Church Appleton

Rev. Dr. Katherine Willis Pershey - First Congregational

UCC Appleton

Dr. Steve Sieck - Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave - Fox Valley Unitarian

Universalist Fellowship

Heather Watney, Music Coordinator - Zion Lutheran Church

Rev. Markus Wegenast - First United Methodist Church

Appleton

Thank you to Jonathan Steffen for providing AV support, and  
to members of the Fox Valley UU Fellowship's Christian  
Spirituality Group for providing refreshments and serving as  
our greeters and ushers today.



**The Fellowship**  
a Unitarian Universalist congregation

## Today's Offering Recipient: **Hope & Help Together**



Hope & Help Together (HHT) is a Fox Cities group working together with our new neighbors with refugee and immigrant backgrounds.

Together they are working to make a difference by:

1. Meeting emergent needs and making connections: Our task force welcomes people inspired by all faith traditions and belief systems. We unite folks to share resources, address needs, and build relationships.
2. Multilingual community education: Newcomers in our community can get more informed about driving laws, finances, cultural competency, and more. These programs are created through partnerships with organizations like Make the Ride Happen, Fox Valley Literacy, and the Appleton Police Department.
3. System Changes (Fox Valley Newcomer Project): Community research helps us identify gaps in services and opportunities across all sectors. Employers, school districts, healthcare organizations, and service providers work together to better serve immigrants and refugees.

HHT is working to help with needs identified by our new neighbors that other organizations in the community are not able to meet. They are an example of the benefit for all when diverse groups collaborate for a common good.

**[www.hopeandhelpttogether.com](http://www.hopeandhelpttogether.com).**

To give, please pay cash or write a check to FVUUF with "Hope & Help" in the memo line.