

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Good Friday
April 2, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

Welcome

Opening Litany

Leader: Hear our cry, O God, and listen to our prayer;

People: From the ends of the earth we cry to you when our hearts are
faint.

Leader: For you are our refuge, a very present help in times of trouble;

People: Let us abide in your tent forever; find refuge under the shelter of
your wings.

Leader: For you alone our souls wait in silence; our hope is in you;

People: You are our rock and our salvation.

All: On you rests our deliverance.

Song *"Release"* Potter and Busbee

Reading *"The Truth Is"* Neil Thorogood

Silent Reflection

The Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 139:1-18

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Silent Reflection

Song *"Keep Me in Your Heart"* Calderone and Zevon

Reading *"Friday"* Ann Weems

Silent Reflection

The Gospels

John 15:12-17

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's

friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Silent Reflection

Reflection

Rev. Mark

Group Reflection

Prayer

Closing Song

"Until the Next Time"

Boyea and Regan

We depart in silence at the end of the Closing Song