

## When do Small Groups meet next?

<b>Book Group</b> - "The Walk" by Richard Paul Evans	Monday 04/28 @ 7pm
<b>Bible Study</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday @ 6:30PM
<b>Chair Yoga</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Monday @ 11:15am
<b>Faithtalk - Bible Study</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Tuesday @ Noon
<b>Grief Support Group</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday 05/08 @ 12 noon
<b>Prayer Team</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 5:00PM
<b>Skeptic's Circle</b> Meets at Starbucks in Channahon	Tuesday 05/13 @ 6:30PM
<b>United Women in Faith Afternoon Circle</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Monday 05/12 @ 1:30PM
<b>Youth Group</b> 6th through 12th Grades Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 7:00PM

For more information about our groups please contact the church office.

### LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER	CHRIS VAUSE & KAREN PUBENTZ
SONG LEADERS	RUTH SATORIUS, SUSAN SPENCER, GAIL GIRARD

### CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL DISCIPLES OF JESUS
LEAD PASTOR	REV. DAVE BUERSTETTA
OFFICE MANAGER	MELISSA CANDLER
MUSIC DIRECTOR	JILL KOHLER
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	KATRINA NOLAN

### CHURCH CONTACT

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## "Everything [in] Between: Acceptance & Resistance" Good Friday



Welcome!

**Minooka United Methodist Church**

**Friday, April 18, 2025 7:00pm**

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Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church

Good Friday April 18, 2025 7:00pm

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\* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

\*GATHERING

Pastor Dave: This day seems to be all about death, Jesus. What else could it be about when you are arrested, accused, beaten, betrayed, and crucified? My God, my God, we come to this forsaken day,

**Many Voices: and our emotions and tears may seek to overwhelm us.**

Pastor Dave: As we witness the trial and execution of Jesus, we cannot help but to cry with him and the psalmist:

**Many Voices: Why have you forsaken him?**

Pastor Dave: In a time filled with abuse of power and oppression of the marginalized,

**Many Voices: we cry out to you but, too often, we hear no answer.**

Pastor Dave: Or are we sometimes too jaded to hear the timeless message of this story?

**Many Voices: Perhaps, when we look a little closer, we discover this day, this story, is really all about life. Integrity unbowed by expediency, love unchanged by hatred,**

Pastor Dave: humility undeterred by power, truth untainted by lies;

**Many Voices: and real, vibrant, fearless life breaking through it all.**

**Holy Week Continues**

**Saturday April 19th**

7:00pm Holy Saturday Worship Service

**Sunday April 20th**

9:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service

**DISCIPLESHIP DURING HOLY WEEK**

Our Lenten journey began Ash Wednesday with Jesus in Galilee, setting his face toward Jerusalem. Here in Holy Week, Jesus' story culminates as he reaches Jerusalem. Our worship experiences throughout Holy Week help us engage and embody that story.

**Holy Saturday, April 19, 7:00pm**, truly an in-between time as we sit with the fact that Jesus died and wonder: How did that feel for Jesus' original followers? What could possibly be next?

**Easter Sunday, April 20, 9:30am**, the joyful surprise of Easter Sunday morning: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

# *I've Been the Thief*

I want my own miracle.  
I read about the blind man and the woman who touched his cloak.  
I read about Lazarus and the little girl who got up.  
I have seen love after loss  
and recovery after addiction,  
so I want my own miracle.  
And if it helps,  
I'd be willing to beg and barter for it.  
I'd be willing to kiss the floor,  
to sell a portion of my days,  
to press my knees to the ground,  
to live with this ache.  
I'd be willing to pray all night,  
to pray until my voice is hoarse—  
Save yourself, and us, or just,  
Save yourself, and me.  
But eventually, my demands soften.  
Eventually, the edge in my voice smooths.  
Eventually, time wears down my insistence,  
and Save yourself and me will become:  
If you're there,  
just don't forget me.  
Please, don't forget me.  
Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



## Verse 1

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.  
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

## Verse 2

See him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.

## READING SCRIPTURE Luke 23:1-12 (The Voice)

**23** So the whole council got up and took Jesus to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>They brought accusations against Him.

**Sanhedrin:** We have observed this man leading our nation astray. He even forbade us to pay our taxes to Caesar. He claims to be the Anointed One and a King Himself.

**Pilate:** <sup>3</sup>Are You the King of the Jews?

**Jesus:** It's as you say.

**Pilate (to the chief priest and crowd):** <sup>4</sup>I find this man guilty of no crime.

**Sanhedrin (growing more intense):** <sup>5</sup>He has been stirring up discontent among the people all over Judea. He started up in Galilee, and now He's brought His brand of trouble all the way to Jerusalem!

**Pilate:** <sup>6</sup>*Just a minute.* Is this man a Galilean?

<sup>7</sup>When Pilate learned *that Jesus was indeed Galilean*—which meant He was officially under Herod's jurisdiction—Pilate sent Him over to Herod, who was currently in Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup>Herod was fascinated to meet Jesus for he had heard about Him for a long time. He was hoping he might be treated to a miracle or two.

<sup>9</sup> He interrogated Jesus for quite a while, but Jesus remained silent, refusing to answer his questions. <sup>10</sup> Meanwhile the chief priests and religious scholars had plenty to say—angrily hurling accusations at Jesus.

<sup>11</sup> Eventually Herod and his soldiers began to insult Jesus, mocking and degrading Him. They put expensive clothing on Him and sent Him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> This ended a long-standing rift between Herod and Pilate; they became friends from that day forward.

**[First candle extinguished]**

**PRAYING SILENTLY**

**PROCLAIMING**

“Everything [in] Between: Acceptance & Resistance, Part 1”  
Pastor Dave

**\*SINGING**            “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”            UMH #297

Verse 1

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat,  
And the burden of the day.

Verse 2

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

Verse 3

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Pastor Dave: You are with us just as you are with all who inflict pain on others and on our world through selfishness and greed, through brokenness and anger, through rigidity and need to be right. Help us and restore us, O God.

**Many Voices: Christ of the cross, see our need for your grace. Hear our prayer for your mercy. Reveal yourself to us again, help us and restore us, because we cannot heal ourselves. Amen.**

**SINGING**            “Jesus, Remember Me”            UMH #488

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**[Christ candle extinguished]**

**LEAVING IN SILENCE**

Following the service you are welcome to remain in the sanctuary to pray. When you are ready to depart, please leave in silence.

Verse 4

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
(were you there)  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
(were you there)

Refrain

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
(were you there)

Verse 5

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
(were you there)  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
(were you there)

Refrain

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
(were you there)

**[Sixth candle extinguished]**

**PRAYING**

Pastor Dave: If the cross tells us anything, O God, it is that You know and share our suffering. You are with us just as you are with all those who are victims of fear, anger, hate, and suffering.

**Many Voices: You are with all victims of violence and abuse. You are with all victims of our own ignorance, foolishness, and sin. Help us and restore us, O God.**

**READING SCRIPTURE**

Luke 23:13-28 (The Voice)

<sup>13</sup> Pilate assembled the chief priests and other Jewish authorities.

**Pilate:** <sup>14</sup> You presented this man to me as a rabble-rouser, but I examined Him in your presence and found Him not guilty of the charges you have leveled against Him. <sup>15</sup> Herod also examined Him and released Him to my custody. So He hasn't done anything deserving the death penalty. <sup>16</sup> I'll see to it that He is properly whipped and then let Him go.

[<sup>17</sup> It was the custom for Pilate to set one prisoner free during the holiday festivities.]

**Crowd** (*all shouting at once*): <sup>18</sup> Away with this man! Free Barabbas instead!

<sup>19</sup> Barabbas had been imprisoned after being convicted of an insurrection he had led in Jerusalem. He had also committed murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate argued with them, wishing he could release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they wouldn't be silenced.

**Crowd** (*shouting*): Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

**Pilate** (*countering a third time*): <sup>22</sup> Why? What has He done that is so evil? I have found in Him no offense worthy of capital punishment. As I said, I will punish Him and then release Him.

<sup>23</sup> But they would not relent. They shouted louder and louder that He should be crucified, and eventually Pilate capitulated. <sup>24</sup> So he pronounced the punishment they demanded.

<sup>25</sup> He released the rebel and murderer *Barabbas*—the insurrectionist they had pleaded for in His place—and he handed Jesus over to them to do with as they desired.

<sup>26</sup> On the way to the place of crucifixion, they pulled a man from the crowd—his name was Simon of Cyrene, a person from the countryside who happened to be entering the city at that moment. They put Jesus' cross on Simon's shoulders, and he followed behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Along with Him was a huge crowd of common people, including many women shrieking and wailing in grief.

**Jesus** (*to the people in the crowd*): <sup>28</sup> Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me. Weep instead for yourselves and weep for your children.

**[Second candle extinguished]**

**REFLECTING** — Simon of Cyrene

Of course they chose me to carry a criminal’s cross. Because of my dark skin and foreign clothes, the soldiers mark me as a man no one will stick up for—at least not against Roman spears.

I’m not surprised by the crowd’s silence, but it still stings. No matter how many years I make my Passover pilgrimage to this land, they’ll never see me as fully one of them. Wherever I go, I’m a man torn in two: not Cyrenian enough for my homeland; not Jewish enough for Jerusalem.

And now, I’m not even *human* enough for the Romans, who look at me and see nothing but a body they can force into service.

Halfway up the hill, I’m not sure I’m going to make it. Is the beam getting heavier as it digs into my shoulder? But the soldiers’ whips and spears warn me what will happen if I stumble or stop.

For just a moment, the criminal whose cross I carry turns around and meets my gaze. There’s compassion in his eyes, as if he’s sorry for my pain—*mine!*—when we both know the agony he is about to go through!

Just when I think my legs will give out, the criminal pauses, forcing the soldiers to stop too. At last, a moment of rest. He’s stopped in front of a throng of crying women. What is he saying?... “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me.” He is comforting *them*, too!

Suddenly, I’m not so ashamed to shoulder a cross for this man, whom the poor and powerless love so well. A poor, battered, exhausted soul, just steps away from death—and yet, he radiates compassion. And yet, he is loved.

Truly that is power, beyond Rome’s wildest imagination.

**PRAYING SILENTLY**

Refrain

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
(were you there)

**[Fifth candle extinguished]**

**PRAYING**

Pastor Dave: When we follow in the steps of Jesus, we say yes to bearing his cross—not because there is any kind of value in suffering, not to prove our selflessness, nor because God wills it, but because living as Jesus lived makes the cross inevitable. So together, let us pray:

**Many Voices: Jesus, when we side with you, we side with all who threaten the status quo.**

Pastor Dave: When we refuse the call to see others’ struggles as our own, we abandon our kin to shoulder their crosses alone. So we pray, O God:

**Many Voices: embolden us to accept the risks that come with following you— even as we resist the powers and systems that set crosses on our shoulders. Amen.**

**SINGING**

“Were You There?”

UMH #288 v3-5

Verse 3

Where you there when they pierced him in the side?  
(were you there)  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
(were you there)

Refrain

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
(were you there)

**READING SCRIPTURE** Luke 23:44-49 (The Voice)

<sup>44</sup> At this point, it was about noon, and a darkness fell over the whole region. The darkness persisted until about three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> and at some point during this darkness, the curtain in the temple was torn in two.

**Jesus** (*shouting out loudly*): <sup>46</sup> Father, I entrust My spirit into Your hands!

And with those words, He exhaled—and breathed no more.

<sup>47</sup> The Centurion—one of the soldiers who performed the execution—saw all this, and he praised God.

**Centurion:** No doubt, this man must have been innocent.

<sup>48</sup> The crowds of common people who had gathered and watched the whole ordeal through to its conclusion left for their homes, pounding on their own chests in *profound grief*. <sup>49</sup> And all who knew Jesus personally, including the group of women who had been with Him from the beginning in Galilee, stood at a distance, watching all of these things unfold.

**[Fourth candle extinguished]**

**PROCLAIMING**

“Everything [in] Between: Acceptance & Resistance, Part 2”

Pastor Dave

**SINGING** “Were You There?” UMH #288 v1-2

Verse 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

Refrain

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

Verse 2

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
(were you there)  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
(were you there)

**SINGING** “What Wondrous Love is This” UMH #292, v1-2

Verse 1

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

Verse 2

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life  
To lay aside his crown for my soul, my soul,  
To lay aside his crown for my soul.

**READING SCRIPTURE** Luke 23:32-43 (The Voice)

<sup>32</sup> Jesus wasn’t the only one being crucified that day. There were two others, criminals, who were also being led to their execution. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place known as “The Skull,” they crucified Jesus there, in the company of criminals, one to the right of Jesus and the other to His left.

**Jesus:** <sup>34</sup> [Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.]

Meanwhile they were drawing lots to see who would win Jesus’ clothing. <sup>35</sup> The crowd of people stood, watching.

**Authorities** (*mocking Jesus*): So He was supposed to rescue others, was He? He was supposed to be God’s Anointed, *the Liberating King*? Let’s see Him start by liberating Himself!

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers joined in the mockery. First, they pretended to offer Him a soothing drink—but it was sour wine.

**Soldiers:** <sup>37</sup> Hey, if You’re the King of the Jews, why don’t You free Yourself!

<sup>38</sup> Even the inscription they placed over Him was intended to mock Him—“This is the King of the Jews!” [This was written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew.]

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals joined in the cruel talk.

**Cynical Criminal:** You’re supposed to be the Anointed One, right? *Well—do it!* Rescue Yourself and us!

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal told him to be quiet.

**Believing Criminal:** Don’t you have any fear of God at all? You’re getting the same death sentence He is! <sup>41</sup> We’re getting what we deserve since we’ve committed crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong at all! <sup>42</sup> (turning to Jesus) Jesus, when You come into Your kingdom, please remember me.

**Jesus:** <sup>43</sup> I promise you that this very day you will be with Me in paradise.

### [Third candle extinguished]

**REFLECTING** — The criminal on the cross

Paradise. That’s what my companion and I are guilty of: intent to bring paradise to our poor, oppressed people, no matter the cost.

That’s not how Rome sees it, of course; they charged us with robbery and sedition.

We’d heard Jesus was back in town, that he’d ridden in like a king of old in challenge to Pilate’s grand parade—and we’d thought he must be here to kick off a rebellion. After all his preaching about the nearness of God’s kingdom, and calling *himself* son of God in defiance to Caesar ... what could he possibly be promising but revolution?

And how does revolution come about, if not with swords? So we ambushed soldiers to seize their weapons. Clearly, it didn’t go as planned. Clearly, Jesus never meant to lead an insurrection after all.

So here we are, about to die with him anyway, and I get why my companion feels betrayed, why he mocks the man we’d pinned our hopes on.

Still, I can’t bring myself to hate Jesus. All the way through my arrest, my trial, my struggle up this hill, I’ve been pondering ...

Could Jesus know a different path to paradise? A way to hold yourself somewhere between violence and passivity as you fight for justice? A kind of revolution that refuses to use the Empire’s weapons and instead creates its own tools for dismantling oppression?

I *shouldn’t* have any hope left: not while hanging here between life and death, with no riot, no liberation, no second chance for me. The Messiah we thought would overturn Rome is slowly suffocating to death beside me.

Things are hopeless—and yet, absurdly, I hope.

Today I head for paradise.

Tomorrow others will take up the work for a better world—until God’s kingdom comes to earth at last.

### PRAYING SILENTLY

**SINGING** “What Wondrous Love is This” UMH #292, v3-4

#### Verse 3

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme I will sing.

#### Verse 4

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on.