April 14, 2017
Good Friday Service
Royal Oak First United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Nelson
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Welcome

* Hymn #2198 (FWS)   Stay with Me

* Call to Worship
One: Holy one, we gather to worship you
All: Give us strength to hear the story once again.
One: Even as we hear him stumble and fall.
All: Even as we hear the ragged breathing of the one carrying the cross,
One: Do not let us turn away from this bleak day.
All: Be with us in this darkness.

* Hymn #292 (UMH)   What Wondrous Love Is This

Time of Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Offertory   *Were You There?*   African-American Spiritual
Mary Nahhat

At the Foot of the Cross
A Good Friday Reading and Reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ
One: We have gathered, O God, in this hour, to stand at the foot of the cross.
All: We have gathered to remember the story once again,
    to relive the suffering of Jesus,
    to hear your word in the words of his dying hours,
    to touch and feel and learn from the compassion and wisdom flowing from
    your breaking heart.
One: And Jesus said, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
All: In the dreadful presence of death, you teach the power of forgiveness.
    Lead us to forgive rather than to judge,
    to see the holy in every person,
    to heal rather than to destroy our relationships.
One: And Jesus said, "Today I tell you, you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)
All: In the depths of despair, You offer the hope and promise of new life.
    Move us to live our lives fully, offering such hope to others.
    Help us build your vision of one just and merciful Community on Earth.

One: And Jesus said to Mary, "Behold your son," and to John, "Behold your mother." (John 19:27)

**All: In the throes of loss, you offer us to one another.
Teach us to love one another with the love of Christ that knows no boundaries and repairs all our divisions.**

One: And Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:48)

**All: As we wrestle with an incomplete understanding of You,
with disbelief that so much goodness can allow such evil,
help us to take responsibility for undoing the evils in our own lives.
Transform our doubts into insight, a dawning awareness of Your purpose.**

One: And Jesus simply said, "I thirst." (John 19:28)

**All: In the drowning waves of overwhelming need,
You affirm the purpose of our desires.
Lead us to live our lives in balance,
allowing our passions to motivate us to do justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly with you,
the one who meets our thirst with living water.**

One: And Jesus sighed, "It is finished." (John 19:30)

**All: Teach us with every ending,
to rest and reflect on each completed season of our lives,
to cherish each breath, to affirm our mortality
as a rite of passage into eternal life.**

One: And Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit." (Luke 23:46)

**All: Though we fear what we cannot know,
you encourage us to place our lives in your hands.
Give us the courage and vision to do as Jesus has done,
shaping our lives to your will, finding our new beginning in you.**

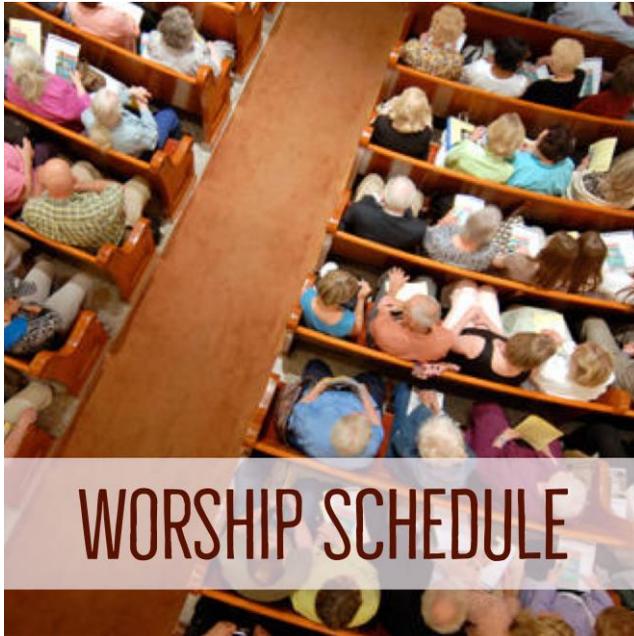**Music Ministry**   Theme from *Schindler's List*   John Williams
Amber Evans

Reflection   Jeff Nelson

* **Hymn #298 (UMH)**   When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Benediction

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

GOOD FRIDAY
    12:00 pm - Good Friday Service
     7:00 pm - 7 Last Words Poetry Night

HOLY SATURDAY
     4:00 pm - Easter Vigil Service

EASTER SUNDAY
     7:00 am - Sunrise Service
     9:00 am - Arise! Worship
    11:00 am - Traditional Worship