



# Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship



April 18th, 2025  
Good Friday



## Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: - Sunday, May 11th @ 10 am - Office
- Board of Trustees: Tuesday May 13th @ 5:30 pm - Office
- Mission Committee: Wednesday June 4th @ 6:30 - Office

## Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting - Thursday April 24th @ 9:00 am
  - Soul Stitching is May 10th @ 9:00 am
- Lenten Project - raising funds for Storks Nest for donation for diapers, wipes etc.
- Noisy Offering - Storks Nest - Lent Offering for 2025 - April 27th

## Religious Education

- Confirmation will be scheduled Spring/Summer 2025 for youth aged 13 and up. Please see Jim if you know a young person who might be interested.

## Holy Week Plans:

- Sunday April 20th - Easter
  - Easter Breakfast Serving starts @ 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
  - Easter Morning Church Service @ 9:00 am

## Easter Plants in Memory of your Loved Ones:

- Let Patty know if you'd like an Easter plant in memory of a loved one. \$18.00 each



## Welcome and Announcements

## Prelude and Candle Lighting

## Invocation (excerpted from Psalm 22)

One: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**Many: O My God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest.**

One: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**Many: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

One: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

**Many: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

One: Let us worship in the presence of a just and loving God.

**Many: Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Were You There" (black hymnal #229)

**Confession:** black hymnal #836 (in unison)

**Silent Prayer**

**Words of Assurance** (over)



One: Hear the Gospel! Our God is a gracious and loving God.

**Many: By His grace, we are forgiven**

One: By His love, we are set free

**All: Amen**

**Responsive Readings:** "A Litany of Intercession" (black hymnal #878)  
"A Litany for Evening" (black hymnal #879)

**Special Music:** "Be Still" by The Fray, sung by Alex Bagenstos

**Reading:** "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

### **Prayers of the People**


#### **Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)**

**\*Closing Hymn:** "What Wondrous Love is This" (black hymnal #223)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

\* Please stand, in body or spirit



Thank you for attending Ripley United Church of Christ.  
We're glad you came.

Prayer requests can be submitted online at  
<https://tinyurl.com/3n324nvk>, in person to Jim or any Deacon

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are  
welcome here.*



### **My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?**

*by Andrea Skevington*

You felt your generous heart forsaken,  
you felt the absence of the one who helps,  
who was beside you, in the beginning,  
who knew you from before first light.

We know too well the sparseness  
of your isolation, without light,  
and companionless,  
in the darkness of our own long night.  
And yet, within our dark, we find you there,  
Find you have waited for us long days, and years,  
while our poor eyes have  
grown accustomed to the dark,  
have learned at last to see you through our tears.  
So as you know our pain and feel it,  
you break our separation with your own.  
Help us see the forsaken all around us,  
invisible and in darkness, but seen by you.  
May we seek each other in the dark,  
May we have courage to cry out,  
like you, and so be found.