



HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Randy Harris

Associate Pastor: Debbie Layman

Associate Pastor: Courtney Stevens

Pastor Emeritus: Steve McCutchan

Director of Christian Education: Heather Ferguson

Director of Music: Chris Gilliam

Organist: Chris Heckman

(336) 724-6303

www.highlandpres.org

2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

March 29, 2024 • Good Friday

The Office of Tenebrae

Good Friday

7:00 p.m.

Prelude

Suite No. 2 in D Minor, Prelude

J. S. Bach

Thrinos

John Tavener

Ryan Graebert, cello

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: In remembrance, we gather:

All: to be with the One who teaches us what faithfulness means.

One: In remembrance, we worship:

All: lifting our voices to the One who calls us to love.

One: In remembrance, we feast:

**All: breaking the bread which makes us whole,
drinking the cup which fills us with grace.**

*Hymn 202 *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

O WALY WALY

Invitation to the Table

Response

Eat This Bread

BERTHIER

Sing three times

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion. Gluten- and nut-free bread is available at the station to the right of the Lectern.

* You are invited to rise in body, or in spirit.

Special Music

What Wondrous Love
Ah, Dearest Jesus

arr. Raymond Haan

Ryan Graebert, cello; Beth Martin, organ

Unison Prayer after Communion

**God of grace, Christ left us this holy meal of bread and cup
which we once again have shared together with him.
May we who have celebrated this sign of Christ's love
go forth in the strength of your Spirit,
serving others wherever you might call us to serve. Amen.**

SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

Luke 23:33–34
Courtney Stevens

One: Lord Jesus Christ, before you die
and the world goes into deep darkness,
take from our lives, from our souls, from our consciences,
all that has offended you, all that has hurt others,
and the stubbornness which has made us numb to the plight
of those whom we could help or heal.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

All: Grant us your peace.

One: On this night, at this time, regardless of our faith or lack of it,
we accept in our hearts the only words that can set us free:
Our sin is forgiven. Our sin is forgiven in you.

All: Amen.

Hymn 228

Were You There

WERE YOU THERE

THE WORD OF HOPE

Luke 23:39–43
Marshall Harris

One: Lord Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

All: Remember us.

One: Remember us, not for our impressive accomplishments,
not for the things which we hope will appear in our obituaries.

All: Remember us.

One: Remember us, not for the virtues we occasionally display
or for any credit we think we have in our moral account.

All: Remember us.

One: Remember us as one who hung at your side,
who knows our need for your mercy;
and if life will not let us be in paradise with you today,
keep a place for us tomorrow.

All: Amen.

Anthem

My Eternal King
Chancel Choir

Jane Marshall

My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally,

Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
For me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace.

Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heav'n, or of escaping hell;

Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord!

E'en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.

THE WORD OF RELATIONSHIP

John 19:26–27

Jane Suitt

One: For our families, where they are open, loving, supportive,
that their joy might be kept safe, Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

One: For our families, where they are tense, troubled, fragmented,
seething with suspicion, that they may find a way through
pain, not a path away from it, Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

One: For our church family, in this place of worship,
surrounded by people whose journey we have not traveled,
whose depth of faith we do not know,
whose potentials we cannot imagine,
that we might somehow know we belong to each other,
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

One: And before you leave the cross and we leave this place,
if there is one of your family for whom we should care more
fondly, direct our gaze to them, as you turned Mary toward
John.

All: Amen.

THE WORD OF FORSAKENNESS

Mark 15:34

Bryan Link

One: Lord Jesus, by your cry of desperate honesty,
rid us of superficial faith which is afraid of the dark.
Not so that we might be justified pessimists,
but so that we might discover profound joy,
we pray that you would give us, when we need it,

**All: the courage to doubt, to rage, to question,
to rail against heaven until we know we are heard.**

One: We do not ask for easy answers in these hard times;
there are many who can offer these.

**All: We ask for a sense of your presence,
that we may know we do not walk or cry alone.**

One: Your solidarity with us will enable us to go through the dark
and find light again in the morning.

All: Amen.

THE WORD OF THIRST

John 19:28

Mary Anna Davis

One: You have made us for yourself.
We know it, even if we cannot name it.
We have had these bodies and these minds long enough
to learn to live with our limitations.

**All: Yet despite this, something in us longs, yearns,
thirsts for something better, something greater
which we know is there.**

One: Beautiful music ends, and we wish it could continue.

**All: We embrace, then refrain from embracing,
and wish that we could be held forever.**

One: We think deeply and feel deeply,
and wish that this sense of being caught up in living
would not be interrupted by the mundane things of life.

**All: We sense the disappointment in dashed hopes
that deserve to be fulfilled,
in missed opportunities which should have led
to joy and not frustration, in people whose potential
has been buried or denied and deserves to flourish.**

One: So much of life demands a resolution.
So, thank you for this incompleteness,
thank you for this yearning, thank you for this thirst.
Thank you for giving us enough of you to want more,
and so to sense the fullness of eternity
within the limits of time.

All: Amen.

Anthem *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. Gilbert Martin
Chancel Choir
See the text at Hymn 224

THE WORD OF COMPLETION

John 19:29–30
Debbie Layman

Reflection

Response *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* arr. Raymond Haan
Ryan Graebert, cello; Beth Martin, organ

THE WORD OF COMMITTAL

Luke 23:46
Randy Harris

Reflection

Hymn 227 *Jesus, Remember Me* REMEMBER ME
Sing three times

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note A4, and continues with eighth and quarter notes.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

The congregation is asked to depart from the Sanctuary in silence.

Worship Notes and Announcements

Our acolytes for this evening's service are Cate Marler Barksdale and Maddie Grace Wagoner.

The crown of thorns plant is traditionally thought to be the one from which the soldiers made the mock crown for Jesus. The plant in the Chancel is almost forty years old and has been provided by Barbara Bowman. "...*And after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.*" (Mark 15:17b)

The Office of Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows") is one of the most ancient observances of the Christian church. This service was written in the 4th Century for use in the Greek church and was translated and adapted for Protestant use on Good Friday from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. It is worship using symbol to help us understand Christ by showing the desertion to which he was subjected in the hours before crucifixion.

The extinguishing of the candles and the dimming of lights remind us of the gathering darkness of Good Friday as Jesus' friends and followers forsook and failed him, even as the religious leaders, crowd, and political leaders together arranged for his crucifixion. The white candle in the center of the Chancel represents Christ, whose light continues to shine in the darkness. This candle is not extinguished but is carried from the church.

Easter morning, we will have our worship service
at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Nursery care will be provided during the service.

We will share a special potluck Easter Breakfast
in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30–10:45 in lieu of Sunday school.

All are welcome!