



# HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*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: Susan Bates*

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*2380 Cloverdale Avenue*

*Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012*

**APRIL 18, 2025 • GOOD FRIDAY**

# THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

*O Soul, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin*

J. S. Bach

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.

(\*) When this  
symbol precedes an  
element of the  
service, you are  
invited to rise  
in body or spirit.

\*HYMN 202

*An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

ST.DENIO

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

RESPONSE

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev er be hun - gry." The second staff contains the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble and bass clef.

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.*

## 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

HYMN 215

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

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.**

ANTHEM

*Jesus, Our Lord, Is Crucified*  
Chancel Choir

David Paxton

O come and mourn with me a while! O come ye to the Savior's side;  
O come, together let us mourn; Jesus, our Lord is crucified.

Have we not tears to shed for him, While soldiers scoff and foes deride?  
Ah! Look how patiently he hangs; Jesus, our Lord is crucified.

Seven times he spoke, seven words of love. And all three hours  
his silence cried for mercy on the souls of men; Jesus our Lord is crucified.

O love of God! O sin of man! In this dread act your strength is tried,  
And victory remains with love, For he our Lord is crucified.

*Tenebrae* is the Latin word for "shadows," signifying the growing darkness of the Sanctuary as we tell the story of Christ's saving death through his last words from the cross.

## THE WORD OF HOPE

LUKE 23:39-43

Jim Bass

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.**

## HYMN 221

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

## THE WORD OF RELATIONSHIP

JOHN 19:26-27

Carol Tash

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.**

ANTHEM

*Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs*

Antonio Lotti

Chancel Choir

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

THE WORD OF FORSAKENNESS

MARK 15:34

Loyd Elder

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.**

HYMN 218

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

THE WORD OF THIRST

JOHN 19:28

Maggie Collins

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.

*Surely he has born our  
infirmities and  
carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him  
stricken, struck down  
by God, and afflicted.*  
✠ Isaiah 53:4

Jesus' anguished cry  
from the cross, "My  
God, my God, why  
have you forsaken  
me?" is taken from  
Psalm 22:1.  
Aramaic is the  
language used in  
translation.

**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**

*Just As I Am*  
Chancel Choir

Bob Chilcott

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though toss'd about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find, I believe, O Lamb of God I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am thy love unknown has broken every barrier down  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love the breadth, length, depth,  
and height to prove, here for a season, then above O Lamb of God, I come.

**THE WORD OF COMPLETION**

**JOHN 19:29–30**  
Debbie Layman

**REFLECTION**

**ANTHEM**

*Were You There*  
See the text at Hymn 228

Bob Chilcott

REFLECTION

HYMN 227

*Jesus, Remember Me*

REMEMBER ME

*Sing three times*

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

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

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

## WORSHIP NOTES

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**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 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)

**Our Acolytes this evening** are Cate Marler Barksdale and Helen Wegner.

**The Office of Tenebrae** (Latin for “shadows”) is one of the most ancient observances of the Christian church. This service was written in the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Celebrations at Highland*

9:30 a.m. **Easter Potluck Breakfast**, Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. **Easter Festival Worship**, Sanctuary  
(Nursery provided)

*All are welcome!*