



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: Susan Bates

Music Associate: Haley Chapman

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2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

APRIL 3, 2026 • 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.

*HYMN 202

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

○ WALY WALY

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

RESPONSE



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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

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.

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.

ANTHEM

Do Not I Love Thee

Dwight Gustafson

Chancel Choir

Do not I love thee, O my Lord? Behold my heart and see;
and turn each cursed idol out, that dares to rival thee.

Do not I love thee from my soul? Then let me nothing love;
dead be my heart to every joy, when Jesus cannot move.

Thou know'st I love thee, dearest Lord, but O! I long to soar
far from the sphere of mortal joys, and learn to love thee more!

THE WORD OF HOPE

LUKE 23:39-43

Charlie Scott

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

Karen Copeland

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

When Jesus Wept

Philip Roberts

Chancel Choir and Handbells

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound.

When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

THE WORD OF FORSAKENNESS

MARK 15:34

Judy Bass

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.**

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.

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

Clara Bryant-Prosterman

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.

The text of this
anthem is drawn
from John 3:16.

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World
Chancel Choir

John Stainer

THE WORD OF COMPLETION

JOHN 19:29-30

Debbie Layman

REFLECTION

ANTHEM

My Song in the Night

Elaine Hagenberg

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, a stranger from Thee,
Or cry in the desert, Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

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 for the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of musical notation for the hymn, identical in structure to the first system, with treble and bass staves and lyrics below the treble staff.

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

The text for this hymn is from Luke 23:39-43.

WORSHIP NOTES

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 over 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 Parker Bragg and Robert Davis.

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 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!