CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Order for Worship
Good Friday

530 Tuscarawas St. W.
Canton, OH 44702
cantoncpc.org

April 18, 2025 Six O'Clock

**At these moments, we invite you to stand in body or spirit Please silence all electronic devices prior to the service*

The Gathering

Gathering in Silence

This evening is the most solemn of our worship services, in which we recall the death of Jesus upon the cross. Some may wonder why the day is called "good." There are at least two reasons. First, it is likely that once upon a time, in an older form of English, it was called God's Friday, which became Good Friday (think of how goodbye comes from "God be with ye"). Second, the Gospel proclaims that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. This is good news indeed.

Introit "Behold the Holy Lamb of God" Malawi Hymn, arr. John Bell

Behold the holy Lamb of God,
Yesu, the one who lifts for us a heavy load.
Holy Lamb of God, raised high on the cross
to bear for us the pain and loss.
In silent grief and dignity;
he takes the cross and walks that way to set us free.
Holy Lamb of God, raised high on the cross
to bear for us the pain and loss.
And there, outside the city wall,
high on the cross they nail the one who saves us all.
Holy Lamb of God, raised high on the cross
to bear for us the pain and loss.
But listen to his heartfelt cry,
"My God, my God, now will you leave me here to die?"
Holy Lamb of God, raised high on the cross
to bear for us the pain and loss.
Yesu, while dying on that tree,
forgives our folly and our sins and sets us free.
Holy Lamb of God, raised high on the cross
to bear for us the pain and loss.

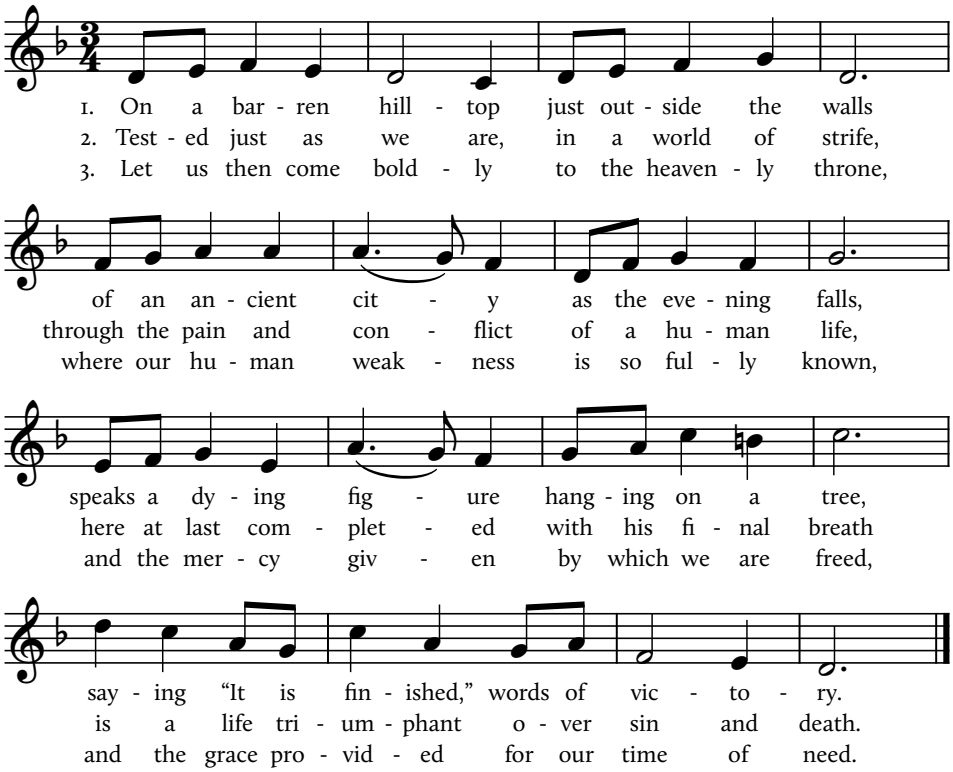
Welcome *and* Worship Notes

Welcome & Worship Notes
Worship begins as the people gather—greeting one another, praying in silence, sharing announcements, or offering music to the glory of God. The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world. (BCW)

Call to Worship

Leader: On this Good Friday,
People: we contemplate the good news of the cross:
Leader: how Christ our Lord stretched out his arms
to embrace a world of suffering and sin;
People: how Christ our Lord stretched out his arms
to save us.

Hymn 217 "On a Barren Hilltop" KING'S WESTON

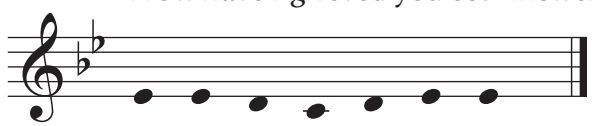


Prayer of Confession

Leader: Christ Jesus was despised and rejected.
People: **We thought nothing of him.**
Leader: He was oppressed and afflicted.
People: **We hid our faces from him.**
Leader: He bore our sickness and sin.
People: **We believed God was punishing him.**
Leader: We, like sheep, have gone astray. *Isa. 53:6*
People: **Yet he, like a lamb, was led to the slaughter.**
[silent confession]
Leader: Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
People: **Lamb of God, grant us peace. Amen.**

The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross Joe Orin

Leader: O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I grieved you so? Answer me!



People: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Leader: I freed you from slavery, I engulfed your enemy: you handed me over, you jeered at me!
O my people…Answer me!
People: **Kyrie eleison**
Leader: I opened the sea before you: you opened my side with your spear!
O my people…Answer me!
People: **Kyrie eleison**

Solemn Reproaches
During this song, a member of the church choir embodies the voice of Jesus, convicting us of the violence we perpetrated against Jesus. We respond with "Kyrie eleison," which is a Greek phrase meaning "Lord, have mercy."

Leader: I moved before you in the pillar of cloud: you led me to Pilate!
O my people…Answer me!
People: Kyrie eleison
Leader: I watched over you in the desert and fed you with manna: you struck me and scourged me!
O my people…Answer me!
People: Kyrie eleison
Leader: I gave you from the rock living waters of salvation: you gave me gall to drink, you quenched my thirst with vinegar!
O my people…Answer me!
People: Kyrie eleison
Leader: I struck down kings for you: you struck me with a reed!
O my people…Answer me!
People: Kyrie eleison
Leader: I put the sceptre into your hand, I made you a royal people: you crowned me with the crown of thorns!
O my people…Answer me!
People: Kyrie eleison
Leader: I made you great by my boundless power: you hanged me on the gallows of the Cross!
O my people…Answer me!
People: Kyrie eleison

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Surely, Jesus Christ has borne our sin.
People: By his wounds we are healed.

Pardon
A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. (BCW)

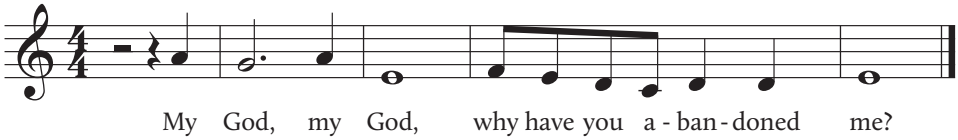
The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, as we bow our heads beneath the cross pour out your Holy Spirit upon us to testify to the truth so that we may believe; this we pray through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. **Amen**.

Prayer for Illumination
This prayer "calls on the Holy Spirit to empower the reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God's word." (BCW)

Psalm 22:1–11



Psalm
The Psalms of the Hebrew Bible are a diverse collection of poems, prayers, and songs that have been treasured by the church from its inception. One pastor-scholar summarizes that, "Jesus used the Psalter in His life and teaching, sang from it at the Last Supper, quoted it from the cross, died with its words on His lips, and illumined its meaning in His teaching following His resurrection" (Rowland S. Ward)
We will sing this psalm *antiphonally*, which means we will all sing the refrain together, and the choir will chant the verses of the psalm.

The Service of Tenebrae

Reading *"Jesus Is Betrayed in a Garden"* John 18:1–11

Leader: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.
People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Meditation

Tenebrae
From the Latin for "darkness," this portion of the service is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles, as the congregation meditates on the final moments of Jesus' death upon the cross. Seven candles are extinguished, but at the end, the Christ candle is carried out of the sanctuary representing Jesus' death. This same candle will be carried in on Easter Sunday as part of the celebratory processional.

Anthem "They Did Not Know" Tallis, arr. Cooper

To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns,
set you with taunts along that road from which no one returns.
They did not know as we do now, that glorious is your crown;
that thorns would flower upon your brow,
your sorrows heal our own.

In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak,
your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.
They did not know as we do now, that though we merit blame,
you will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.

A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into your hand,
and acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.
They did not know as we do now, though empires rise and fall,
your Kingdom shall not cease to grow, till love embraces all.

The First Candle Is Extinguished

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"Barabbas"
Madeleine L'Engle, *A Cry Like a Bell*

Son of man
son of the father—
who can
tell one from the other?
Son of man
must taste of death.
Father's son,
I would rather
be the one
to return
to father's side
than to remain
to mourn
man's son's pain.
So he died
while my breath
burned in the rain.

Son of man
dead for me,
crucified,
to set me free.
Son of the father,
I must be
because my brother
toppled death
upon a tree.

The cross's death
becomes life's door.
Son of man
offers more
abundant life
than those whose scorn
had thought to kill
the coming morn.

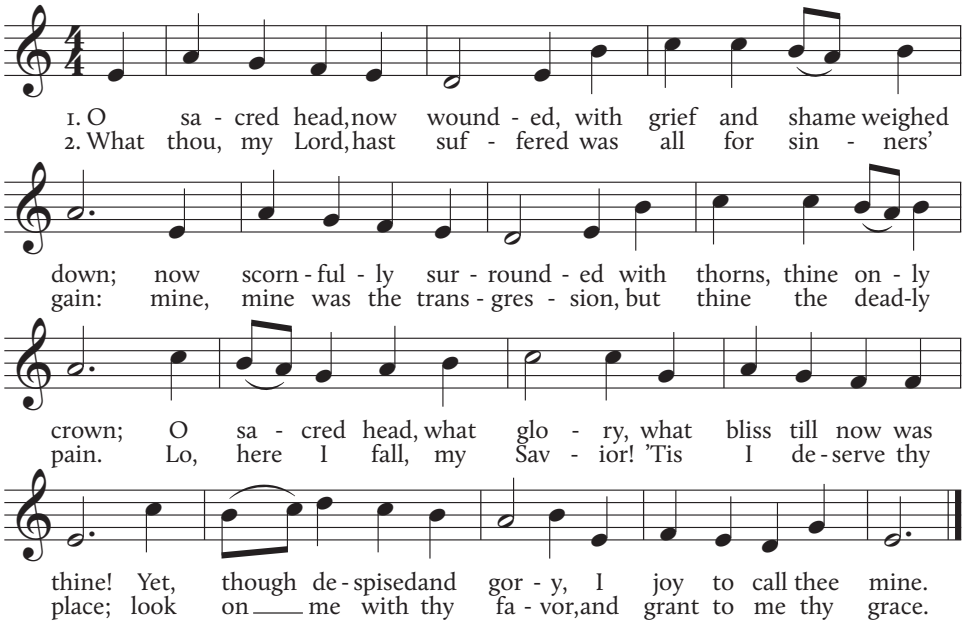
Son of man
my life will turn
as to our father
I return.

Reading *"Jesus Is Denied by Peter"* John 18:12–27

Leader: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.
People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Meditation

Hymn 221 "O Sacred Head" Passion Chorale



The Second Candle Is Extinguished

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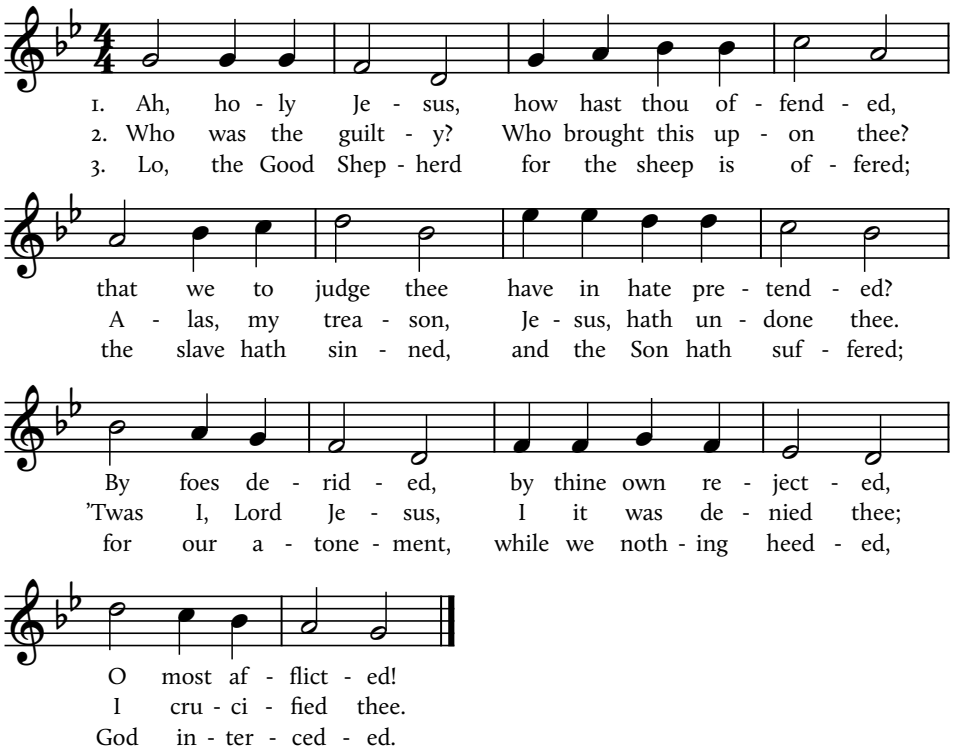
Reading *"Jesus and Barabbas before Pilate"* John 18:28–40

Leader: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.
People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Meditation

Hymn 218 "Ah, Holy Jesus" HERZLIEBSTER JESU



The Third Candle Is Extinguished

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Reading *"Jesus Stands Trial before the Crowd"* John 19:1–16a

Leader: The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away.
People: Blessed be the name of the LORD.

Meditation

Anthem "Ave Verum Corpus" William Byrd

Ave verum corpus	*Hail, true body*
natum de Maria virgine;	*born of the virgin Mary*
vere passum immolatum	*who has truly suffered, slaughtered*
in crucis pro homine.	*on the Cross for humanity.*
Cuius latus perforatum	*Whose side was pierced,*
unda fluxit sanguine.	*pouring out water and blood.*
Esto nobis prægustatum	*Be a foretaste for us*
in mortis examine.	*during our ordeal of death.*
O dulcis, O pie,	*O sweet, O holy,*
O Jesu Fili Mariæ,	*O Jesus Son of Mary,*
miserere mei. Amen.	*have mercy on me. Amen.*

The Fourth Candle Is Extinguished

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In writing about Jesus' invitation to discipleship and meditating on the cross, scholar and pastor N.T. Wright reflects, "When we speak of 'following Christ,' it is the crucified Messiah we are talking about. His death was not simply the messy bit that enables our sins to be forgiven but that can then be forgotten. The cross is the surest, truest, and deepest window on the very heart and character of the living and loving God' the more we learn about the cross in all its historical and theological dimensions, the more we discover about the One in whose image we are made and hence about our own vocation to be cross-bearing people, the people in whose lives and service the living God is made known." (*The Challenge of Jesus*)

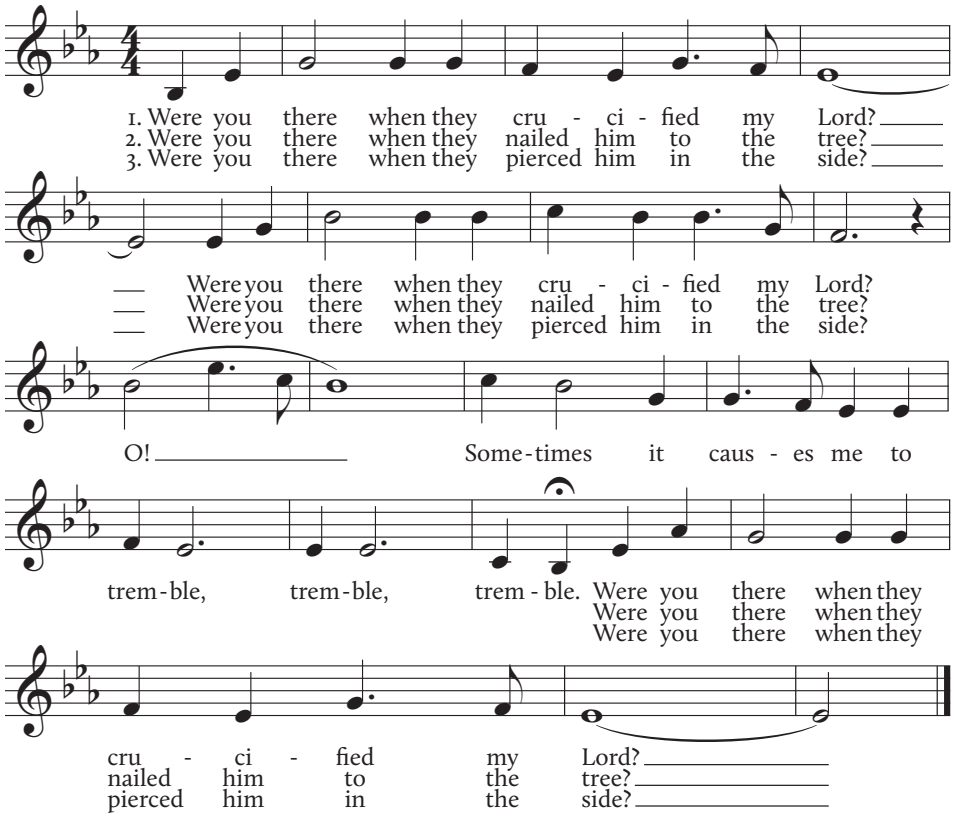
Reading *"Jesus Is Crucified"* John 19:16b–25a

Leader: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Meditation

Hymn 228 "Were You There" Were You There



The Fifth Candle Is Extinguished

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Reading *"Jesus Dies"* John 19:25b–30

Leader: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Meditation

Anthem "Sing, My Tongue" Pange Lingua

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; of the mighty conflict sing;
tell the triumph of the victim, to his cross thy tribute bring.
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer
from that cross now reigns as King.

Thirty years among us dwelling, his appointed time fulfilled,
born for this, he meets his passion, this the Savior freely willed:
on the cross the Lamb is lifted,
where his precious blood is spilled.

Faithful cross! above all other, one and only noble tree!
none in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be:
sweetest wood and sweetest iron!
sweetest weight is hung on thee.
Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One:
one in might and one in glory while eternal ages run.

The Sixth Candle Is Extinguished

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Reading *"Jesus Is Buried in a Garden"* John 19:31–42

Leader: The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.
People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Meditation

Hymn 227 "Jesus, Remember Me" Remember Me

The Seventh Candle Is Extinguished

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Anthem "Beautiful Savior" F. Melius Christiansen

Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands,
robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
now and forever more be thine!

In place of a benediction, the choir sings the anthem "Beautiful Savior," which anticipates Jesus' resurrection. On Good Friday, the candle is carried out of the nave. All are invited to remain for meditation or depart in silence.

The light of the world is carried out of the nave.
Remain for meditation, or depart in silence.

The offering will be received at the doors.

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Prayers adapted from *Feasting on the Word* and *The Book of Common Worship*