CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Order for Worship
Good Friday

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

April 3, 2026 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

Prelude Fughetta on "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Pachelbel

Welcome *and* Worship Notes

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

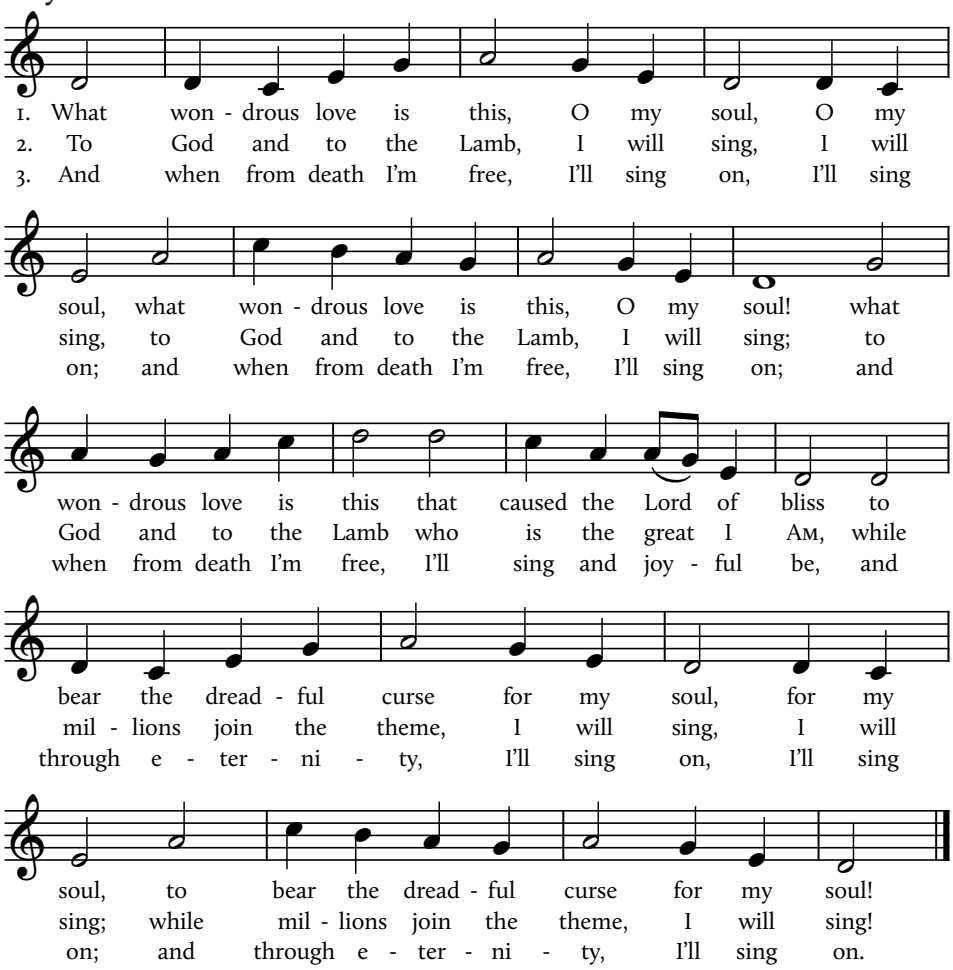
Behold the holy Lamb of God,
Yesu, the one who lifts for us a heavy load.
Holy Lamb of God, raised high on the cross
to bear for us the pain and loss.
In silent grief and dignity;
he takes the cross and walks that way to set us free.
Holy Lamb of God, raised high on the cross
to bear for us the pain 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.

Call to Worship

Leader: Today God makes common cause with our human suffering.
People: We read the Scriptures, sing the hymns, feel the feelings of the day Christ died.
Leader: Suffering is not rational. It has no answer.
People: But in the cross God meets us in our suffering.
Leader: From this day forward we know that there is nowhere we can go where God is not with us.
People: God, into your hands we commend our spirits.

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.

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)

Hymn 215 "What Wondrous Love" WONDROUS LOVE

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.

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

Assurance of Pardon

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

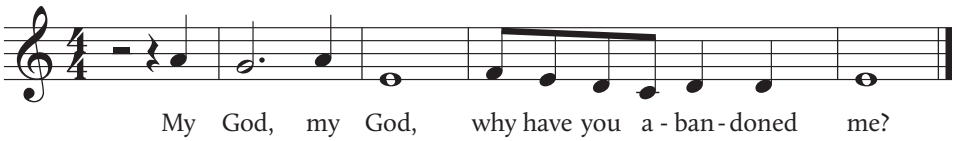
THE WORD

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

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One,
since the days our mothers bore us you have been our God.
By your Holy Spirit, draw close to us through this your Word.
Amen.

Psalm 22:1–11



The Service of Tenebrae

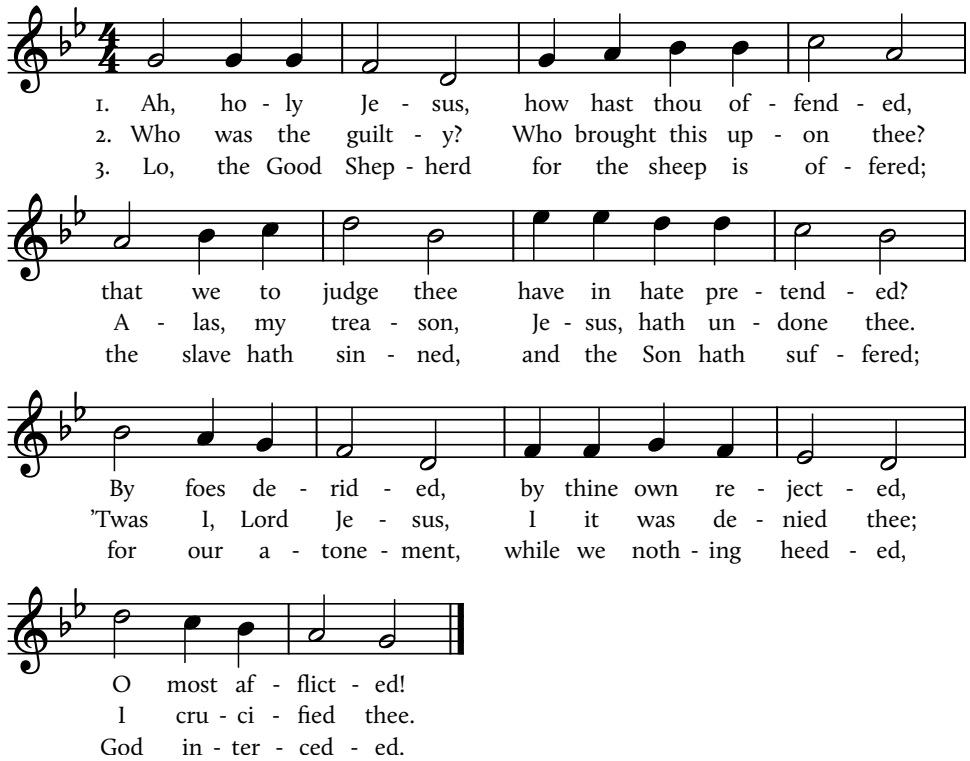
Tenebrae
From the Latin for "darkness," this portion of the service is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles, as the congregation meditates on the final moments of Jesus' death upon the cross. Seven candles are extinguished, but at the end, the Christ candle is carried out of the sanctuary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

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

Hymn 218 "Ah, Holy Jesus" Herzliebster Jesu



The First Candle Is Extinguished

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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

"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.

Anthem "Crux Fidelis" attr. to John IV of Portugal

Crux fidelis, inter omnes,	*Faithful Cross, above all other,*
arbor una nobilis:	*One and only noble tree*
nulla silva talem profert	*None in foliage, none in blossom,*
fronde flore, germine:	*none in fruit thy peer may be:*
dulce lignum, dulces clavos,	*sweetest wood and sweetest iron,*
dulce pondus sustinet. Amen.	*sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

The Second Candle Is Extinguished

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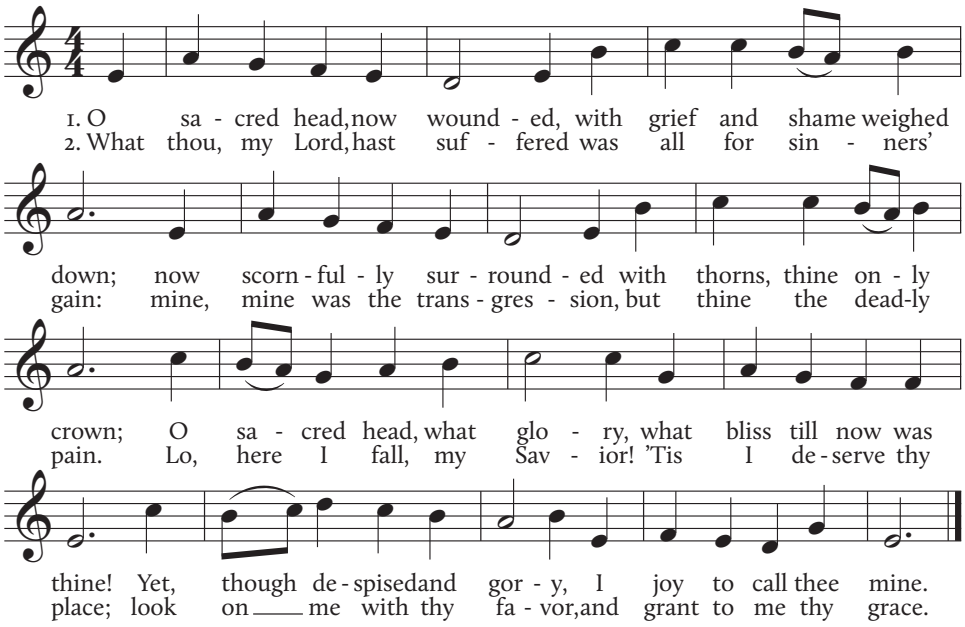
Reading *"Jesus and Barabbas before Pilate"* John 18:28–40

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

Meditation

Hymn 221 "O Sacred Head" Passion Chorale



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 "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.

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*)

The Fourth Candle Is Extinguished

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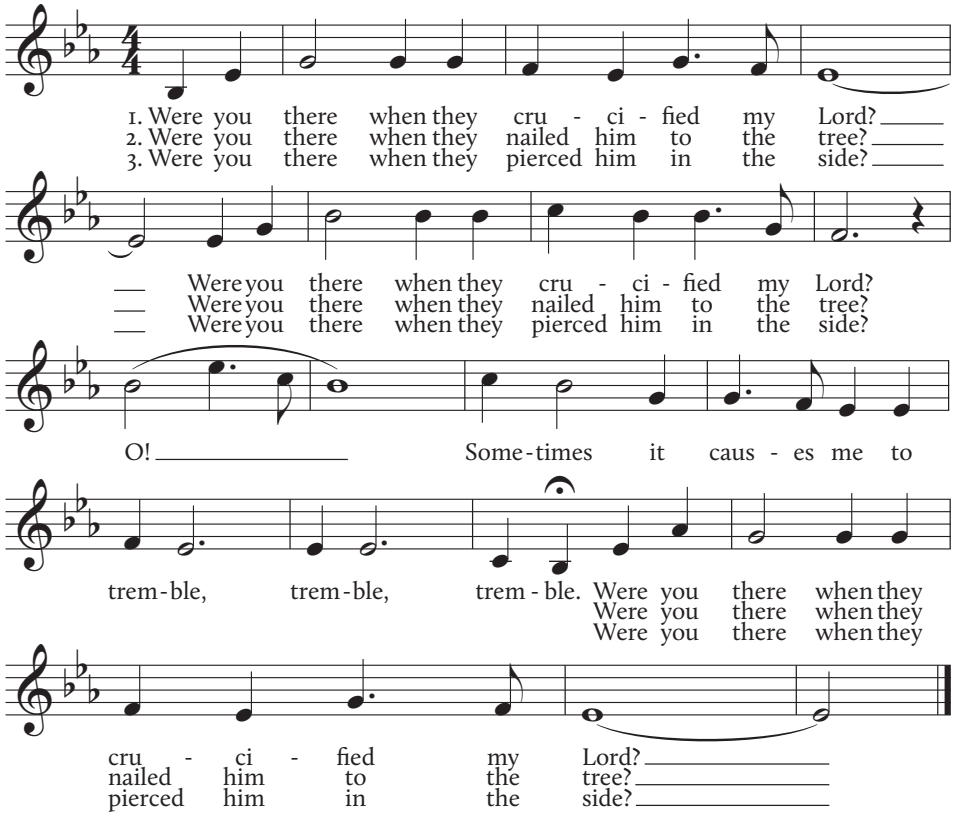
Reading *"Jesus Is Crucified"* John 19:16b–25a

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

The veil is torn. The foundations of the earth shake. It is finished.

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

Meditation

Anthem "God So Loved the World" Bob Chilcott

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son
that whoso believeth in him should not perish
but have everlasting life.

The Sixth Candle Is Extinguished

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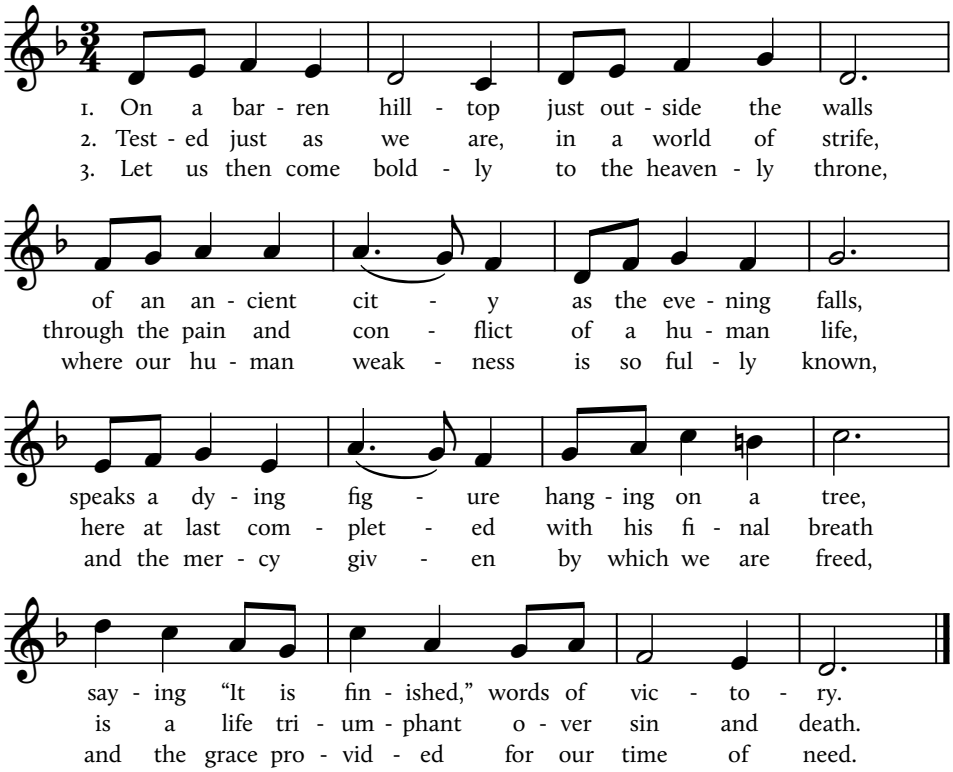
Reading *"Jesus Is Buried in a Garden"* John 19:31–42

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

Meditation

Hymn 217 "On a Barren Hilltop" King's Weston



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*