



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Good Friday Tenebrae Service – April 3, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.

Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent

The good news is... revealed through nonviolence

On Good Friday, we stand at the foot of the cross pondering the wondrous love of God in the death of Jesus. Until we kneel at the cross, we will not experience or know the awesome wonder of Easter.

By careless or chosen thoughts, words and deeds, whom have we injured?

Tenebrae services, services of darkness and shadows, date to the 7th century. It guides us from light to darkness, from the joy of Christ's ministry to his death. He is the light of the world.

Can the darkness overcome Him? Is darkness our end?

During this service, we will remember the events of the week when the world fell into darkness through the reading of selections from the Gospel of Luke and the extinguishing of candles.

We Gather to Worship

VOLUNTARY

Adagio in G Minor

Tomaso Albinoni/Remo Giazotto

WORDS OF WELCOME

CHIME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Why Did You Have To Die?

Dirt, Mess and Danger

*HYMN 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

The Passion of the Lord

READING I

Luke 22:39-46

Rev. John C. McKinnon

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

HYMN 220

Go to Dark Gethsemane

REDHEAD 76

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power; your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

For sheer intensity of feeling few hymns can match this meditation on the cross; impressive images and strong contrasts combine to give the text its ardor. The passionate language is augmented by the highly chromatic tune later composed for these words.

READING II

Luke 22:47-53

Angie Sholar

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?

By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

READING III

Luke 22:54-62

Peter Denies Jesus

HYMN 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.

O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know.

But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

READING IV

Luke 22:63-65

The Mocking and Beating of Jesus

HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

(introduction: Helmut Walcha)

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.

'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

READING V

Luke 22:66-71

Jesus Before the Council

HYMN 220

Go to Dark Gethsemane

REDHEAD 76

Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned; O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs

his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

READING VI

Luke 23:1-11

Jesus Before Pilate; Jesus Before Herod

HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sin-ned, and the Son hath suffered;

for our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation,

thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

READING VII

Luke 23:13-25

Jesus Sentenced to Death

CHORAL RESPONSE

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

(hymn 209)

Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing, resounding all the day hosannas to our King.

Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.

Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away, a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.

Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

READING VIII

Luke 23:26-31

The Crucifixion of Jesus

CHORAL RESPONSE

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

(hymn 215)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

READING IX

Luke 23:32-34a

The Crucifixion of Jesus

CHORAL RESPONSE

O Sacred Head

PASSION CHORALE

(hymn 221)

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;

now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;

O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!

Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain:

mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;

look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,

for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?

O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,

Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

READING X

Luke 23:34b-38

The Crucifixion of Jesus

CHORAL RESPONSE

Thy Will Be Done

Craig Courtney

Our cup was filled with darkness. Our cup was filled with death. Christ took our cup and drank it, and gave us life, and gave us hope, gave us Himself. My Father, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done. In blackest night we hear Him in dark Gethsemane. Pleading with the Father for one more way, for one more hope, for one more day. Then they took our Savior and led Him to a tree; and there they broke His body, poured out His life, put Him to death to rise again!

READING XI

Luke 23:39-43

The Crucifixion of Jesus

CHORAL RESPONSE

Jesus, Remember Me (hymn 227)

Jacques Berthier

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

READING XII

Luke 23:44-46

The Death of Jesus

CHORAL RESPONSE

Were You There? (hymn 228)

WERE YOU THERE

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

READING XIII

Luke 23:47-56a

The Burial of Jesus

All remaining candles except the vigil candle are extinguished.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Wrap My Heart, O God

Warren Puffer Jones

Wrap my heart, O God, in bands of linen cloths.

Just as your broken body, with pierced and bleeding hands, so my heart is aching as it tries to understand.

Seal my heart, O God, in a tomb of hardest stone. Seal my heart, O God, in a tomb of hard, cold stone.

In stillness and in darkness, in silence, night and day, let me stay beside you, keep vigil, watch and pray.

Guard my heart that none may come and steal it in the night: demons or false prophets, deceivers who would scoff at your gift and its cost while they mock my heart, make it wear a crown of thorns and nail it to the cross.

Fill my heart, O God, with a love for all the earth. Fill my heart, O God, with a love that conquers death.

Just as you gave your life for love of humankind, let me choose compassion and dedicate my every breath to serve you and love you with heart and soul and mind.

TOLLING

DISMISSAL

There is no benediction for the people of God on this night.

Please remain seated until the narthex lights are illuminated.

Feel free to remain seated in the Chapel in meditation as long as you desire.

Please exit in silence.

Easter at FPC-OKC

Easter Breakfast — Sunday, April 5 | 9:30 a.m.

The Deacons will host an Easter Breakfast in Watchorn Hall. Please plan to attend and bring your family as we gather in fellowship with the whole church family!

Menu: Baked eggs, roasted potatoes, assorted pastries and fruits, donut holes, and breakfast casserole

Easter Sunday Worship — Sunday, April 5 | 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday is the brightest jewel of Christian worship. It proclaims the universal significance of God's saving acts in history. Join us for this special service as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

Easter Egg Hunt — Sunday, April 5 | 12:00 p.m.

In celebration of the Resurrection, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt following worship! Children are encouraged to bring their own basket to collect eggs.

Upcoming Events

Bridge Group — Mondays | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Wednesdays | 9:00-11:30 a.m.

We meet in Room B-10 (basement) on Mondays from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Whether you've never played, are returning after a break, or just want to join a friendly bridge group, we've got a spot for you!

Contact Barbara Charlet (barbara.charlet@outlook.com) or David Ligon (david.m.ligon@gmail.com) for more information.

Evening Prayer Service — Wednesdays | 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m., followed by an Evening Prayer Service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. This is a short worship service featuring sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday, to help transition into the restful night.

After the service, we'll have a time of fellowship in the Reception Center from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Free Yoga Class — Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m.

Our free yoga class is available weekly on Wednesdays! Angela Rose leads the hour-long class in the Rec Room in the basement. All skill levels are welcome.

Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The choir rehearses at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays! If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Puffer Jones (puffer@fpcokc.org).

Kemp Concert: Mostly Mancini — Sunday, April 19 | 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of delightful music with Oklahoma City *RONDEAU*, comprised of flutist John L. Edwards and pianist Rondal J. Wallace. The program includes arrangements by James Galway of beloved works by Henry Mancini, including some of his most recognizable film themes. As part of the Kemp Concert Series, this concert is free and open to all.

Saturday Worship (Marathon Weekend) — Saturday, April 25 | 5:00 p.m.

Due to the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon route surrounding the church, we will not have Sunday activities or worship on April 26. Instead, please join us on Saturday, April 25, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for worship.

As part of the service, we'll head outside to the Community Garden to celebrate Earth Day and dedicate the garden for the 2026 growing season.



The Descent from the Cross

1650/1652 Rembrandt Workshop (probably Constantijn van Renesse)

National Gallery of Art

First Presbyterian Church

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