

Tenebrae

— *A Service of Shadows* —

Good Friday



Friday, April 3, 2026

7:00 PM

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Georgia

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*Holy the waiting, holy the grieving,
holy the shadows and gathering night.*

*Holy the darkness, holy the hours,
holy the hope turning towards light.*

Jan Richardson

PRELUDE

Passacaglia for Violin & Piano

Aaron Carter-Enyi

WELCOME

VOLUNTARY

I Saw the Cross of Jesus

arr., Michael Ryan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 22

One: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

All: Yet, you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

One: In you our ancestors trusted;

All: they trusted, and you delivered them.

One: To you they cried, and were saved;

All: in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

*HYMN 220
(stanzas 1-3)

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

REDHEAD 76

EXAMINE OUR LIVES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: The Lord be with you. P: And also with you. L: Let us pray:

Holy God, on this day that we dare to call good, forgive us for assuming that there is a way to avoid this, a compromise that could remove the cross from this sacred story. We want there to be a way other than your way, a kind of love that will not provoke the powers to bare their teeth and silence your gospel. But you will not be moved. And so we move and fall away and cover our heads and turn from your suffering, saving love. Have mercy on us, compassionate Creator. *Silent Prayer*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A TENEBRAE SERVICE

THE FIRST READING

Jesus goes out to the garden, is confronted by the soldiers, and is arrested.

John 18: 1-11

THE SECOND READING

Jesus is taken first to Annas, and Peter's denials are set in motion.

John 18: 12-18

Oconee Presbyterian Church Choir

"I Will Arise"

Traditional/arr., Shaw/Parker

THE THIRD READING

Jesus is questioned by the high priest, and Peter's denials are completed.

John 18: 19-27

THE FOURTH READING

Jesus is brought before Pilate, and Pilate questions him.

John 18: 28-38a

Friendship Presbyterian Church Choir "O Lord, Do Remember My Soul"

Shaker song, arr., Kelly

THE FIFTH READING

Pilate presents Jesus to the crowd, Barabbas is chosen, Jesus is flogged and mocked, and the charge against him deepens.

John 18: 38b-19:7

THE SIXTH READING

Pilate's final exchange with Jesus leads to the decision to hand him over for crucifixion.

John 19: 8-16a

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir "Into the Woods My Master Went"

David A. White/ Sidney Lanier

THE SEVENTH READING

Jesus is crucified, the title is placed above him, his garments are divided, and he entrusts his mother to the beloved disciple.

John 19: 16b-27

Covenant Presbyterian Adult Choir "O Lord My God (Psalm 22)"

Pelham Humfrey

THE EIGHTH READING

John 19: 28-37

Jesus dies, his side is pierced, and the scriptures are fulfilled.

Joint Choir Anthem

“O Savior of the World”

John Goss

THE NINTH READING

John 19: 38-42

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus bury Jesus in the garden tomb.

HYMN 228 (sitting)

“Were You There”

African American Spiritual

During the singing of the hymn the paraments are removed from the worship space. The Christ candle is then removed and all is covered with black cloth, symbolizing the death of Christ.

Please Depart in Silence. The Postlude will begin as the congregation departs.

POSTLUDE

Were You There (instrumental)

African American Spiritual

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PIANIST: Dr. Aaron Carter-Enyi

COMBINED ATHENS PCUSA CHOIRS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF Dr. Kevin Kelly

Covenant Presbyterian Church Choir—Dr. Aaron Carter-Enyi, director

First Presbyterian Church Choir—Dr. John Coble, director

Friendship Presbyterian Church Choir—Dr. Kevin Kelly, director

Oconee Presbyterian Church Choir—Alan Bunn, director

Voice Soloists: Lisa Buchanan, Rich Reaves, Jason Roberts

Violinist: Dr. Rachael Fischer Cellist: Dr. Karen Bergmann Liturgist: Rev. Tom Buchanan

Readers:

Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (First Presbyterian Church, Athens)

Rev. Christin Norman (Presbyterian Village)

Rev. Steven Barnes (Oconee Presbyterian Church)

Rev. Margaret Davis (First Presbyterian Church, Athens)

Rev. Colleen Cook (Oconee Presbyterian Church)

Rev. Ryan Baer (First Presbyterian Church, Athens)

Rev. Haley Lerner (The Table @ UGA)

Rev. Craig Topple (Friendship Presbyterian Church)

Rev. Sue Jacobson (Oconee Presbyterian Church)