



April 3, 2026

Good Friday
Tenebrae Service

Welcome!

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Tenebrae is the Latin word for darkness or shadows.

Toward the end of this service, we experience complete darkness as we remove the Christ Candle from the Sanctuary. We sense the gravity of Jesus' death and of every state-sanctioned execution of an innocent justice-seeker. Joining in a medieval Tenebrae ritual of sustained drumming, we remember the earthquake recounted in Scripture. Then the Christ Candle comes back to us, shining even in the midst of grief and loss.

***A light that shines in the darkness,
a light that the darkness has never overtaken. ~ John 1: 5***

*We leave in silence as grieving disciples, trusting in the mystery of the resurrection.
The Christ Light signifies hope as we anticipate the good news of Easter morning.*

Entering Into Darkness

Gathering Music

We gently settle into sacred time and space

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“Were You There?”

Trad Spiritual

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

O God, under whose wings all your creatures find shelter, to you we cling in this night of grief. We gather to remember the betrayal, accusations, trial, suffering, and death of our beloved friend and savior. With those who followed Jesus during his lifetime, we face the costs of discipleship. Give us strength in this hour and hope for the promise of resurrection. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn (NCH #219) “Journey to Gethsemane”

verses 1—3

Contemporary Reading | “Looking for Jesus,” by *Ellis Miller*

I am afraid to feel but I am ready to face my fears. Stay with me.

Extinguishing a Candle (*with musical interlude*)

Betrayal And Arrest

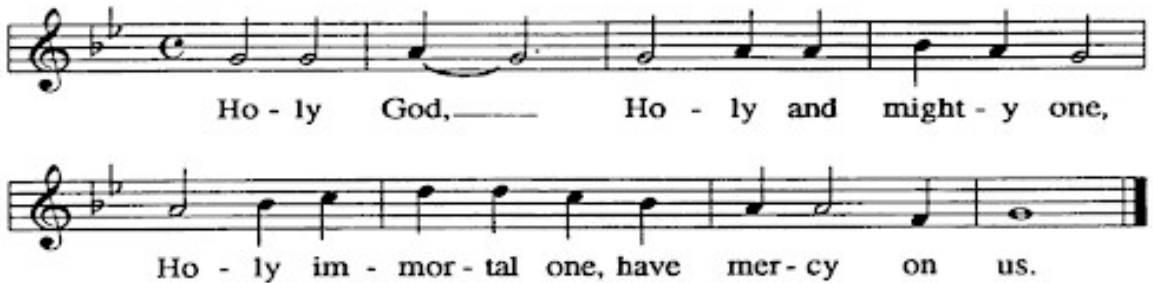
Scripture Reading | Luke 22:39-42, 45-54a

*Then Jesus went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives;
the disciples accompanied him...*

Extinguishing a Candle (*with musical interlude*)

Sung Response

“Holy God”
cantor sings once, then all sing repeatedly



Trial And Judgment

Scripture Reading | Luke 23:1-25

*Then the whole assembly arose and led Jesus to Pilate.
They began to accuse Jesus...*

Extinguishing a Candle *(with musical interlude)*

Procession of the Cross

A loud drumbeat accompanies the cross

Public Execution

Scripture Reading | Luke 23:32-43

*Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him...
...Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

Extinguishing a Candle

Hymn (NCH #229)

“Were You There?”
verses 1-2

Suffering & Death

Scripture Reading | Luke 23:44-45, Mark 15:34 & 37-39

*It was now about noon, and darkness fell on the whole land
until three in the afternoon, because of an eclipse of the sun ...*

At three, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" ...

Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

And the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two, from top to bottom ...

Extinguishing a Candle *(with musical interlude)*

Sung Response (NCH #192) "When Jesus Wept"

cantor sings once, then all sing twice more

Contemporary Reading | "Still: For Good Friday," by Jan Richardson

This day let all stand still in silence, in sorrow.

Extinguishing a Candle

Choral Anthem

"An Hour of Hallowed Peace"

Written by William B Tappan. Arranged By Steve Danyew

Pastoral Reflection

Invitation to the Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)

Blue electronic giving cards found in pew pockets.



Offertory

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Conkey

Prayer (unison)

**O Holy One, we bring to you this night who we are and what we can give:
an abiding commitment to follow the way of Jesus,
an undying hope to fully embrace your wonder and mystery,
a growing confidence that your grace is sufficient for all our needs,
an increase in our generosity toward all in your creation.
Receive us and continue to guide us through
the darkest of nights and days, by the light of your wondrous love. Amen.**

Grief—the Work of Love

Scripture Reading | Mark 15:40–45, John 19:39–40, Luke 23:53–55

*There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene;
and Mary, the mother of James the younger and of Joses; and Salome ...*

*So Joseph came and took away Jesus' body. Nicodemus came as well—the same one
who had first come to Jesus by night ...*

Having wrapped him in the linen shroud, they laid him in a rock-hewn tomb...

Extinguishing a Candle

Wrapping Jesus' Body in Spices and Oil (with musical interlude)

The cross is lowered to the ground as beloved ones attend to Jesus' body

Anointing with Oil (with musical interlude)

*Anointing with oil is an ancient symbol of healing in the church. We need healing
when the heart, body, or soul has been wounded through betrayal, loss, grief, or despair.*

Please approach by the central aisle and return by a side aisle.

Gesture to your forehead or hold out your hand.

Scripture Reading | Luke 23:53–55

*The women who had come with him from Galilee followed,
and saw the tomb and how his body was laid.*

Extinguishing a Candle

Hymn (NCH #229)

“Were You There?”

verse 3

Contemporary Reading | “What Abides: For Good Friday,” by Jan Richardson

*This blessing... is what dwells in the space between them,
though it be torn and gaping.*

Removal of the Christ Candle

All remaining lights go out

Earthquake

*As the Christ Candle passes by you, lean forward to drum on the pew in front of you.
Continue drumming. When it passes by you on its return, please stop drumming.*

Extended Silence and Darkness

Please remain seated for a full minute of silence

Departure

When lights are turned back on, we depart in complete silence

*This day
let all stand still
in silence, in sorrow.*

Sun and moon be still.

Earth be still.

Still the waters.

Still the wind.

*Let the ground
gape in stunned
lamentation.*

*Let it weep
as it receives
what it thinks
it will not
give up.*

*Let it groan
as it gathers
the One
who was thought
forever stilled.*

Time be still.

Watch and wait.

Still.

— *“Still” for Good Friday, by Jan Richardson*



Join Us Easter Sunday

Together, we marvel as new life and growth emerge out of death, loss and grief

8:00 am | early service at the river (near Lakeside Park beach house)


9:00 am | breakfast

9:30 am | indoor Easter egg hunt

10:00 am | joyful worship with choir, organ, piano, trumpet & flute

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), SCUC Choir, Cheri Schwartz (greeter & liturgist), Carol Dusbabek & Gary Piasecki (ushers), Mary Piasecki (liturgist), Betsy Runke, Mary Horak Binger (sacred drama team), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer)

St. Croix United Church

www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll

pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409

Megan Adams | Office Coordinator

office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667



John 18:1-20:18

James Montgomery, 1820; alt.

1 Jour - ney to Geth - se - ma - ne, go and feel the
 2 Fol - low then to Pi - late's hall, view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb, see the Sav - ior
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb, hear the cry of

tempt - er's power; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - rained; Crowned with thorns and mocked by all,
 lift - ed high, Mark the mir - a - cle of time,
 great sur - prise; Then the si - lence in the room,

watch the an - guish of this hour; Do not hide or
 faith - ful - ly this pain sus - tained; Great - er still than
 God's own Child is sac - ri - ficed; "It is fin - ished!"
 Je - sus there no long - er lies: Christ is ris - en!

turn a - way: learn from Je - sus how to pray.
 shame or loss, Je - sus now must face the cross.
 Je - sus cries: learn from Je - sus how to die.
 Re - al - ize that with Christ we, too, may rise.

James Montgomery, born of Moravian missionary parents, edited a newspaper in England. Risking imprisonment, he published articles advocating human rights, including the abolition of slavery. He wrote more than 400 hymns.

Tune: REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.
 Richard Redhead, 1853

John 19:16-18; 20:11-17

African-American spiritual

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 3 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 4 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

O some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

While many spirituals begin solemnly but end on a high pitch of praise, this is one of the true "sorrow songs" that W. E. B. DuBois spoke about in his book *The Souls of Black Folk*.

Tune: WERE YOU THERE Irr.
 African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

When Jesus Wept

192

William Billings, 1770

John 11:35

1 When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy
flowed be - yond all bound; When Je - sus groaned, a
trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round.

William Billings served as choir leader at Old South Church (Congregational) in Boston. A self-taught singing-school teacher and composer, he also worked as a tanner. "When Jesus Wept" is especially beautiful when sung as a canon, with groups entering as indicated by the numbers above.

Tune: WHEN JESUS WEPT L.M.
William Billings, 1770
New England Psalm Singer