

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



April 3, 2026

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

12:00 P.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

(All gather in silence.)

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive, congregation please read **bold print.**)*

The color has drained from the sky, and all is still.

Let all creation stand and watch.

May we be broken open in grief that room may be made for new life.

Let us breathe together, children of God, as Jesus breathes no more.

Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

We stand near the cross, O God – disturbed, distraught, discouraged.

Yet we gather here as disciples, those whom Jesus loves. On this day of great solemnity, let us stand as witnesses to your immense love for the world, revealed in the outstretched arms of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LENTEN WREATH

Judy McQuilkin, Hilda Quist

Never doubt the meaning of Lent. Jesus walked on this earth. He practiced a ministry of radical inclusivity, drawing to himself all the despised and rejected of society. He lived what he taught: A life of justice, love, and profound compassion for all people. He lived a life acceptable to God. His death terrifies us because it reveals how committed the world is to its own way and the price the world exacts from those whose commitment is to you.

(Silence.)

As we extinguish Christ's light, we acknowledge the pain of all the children of the world who suffer in body, in mind, or in spirit.

(The Christ candle is extinguished.)

What we contemplate this day is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what is inexpressible. Amen.

READING ONE: The Shadow of the Lonely Vigil – Matthew 26:36-46

SILENCE

TAIZE RESPONSE: HYMN 204

"Stay with Me"

STAY WITH ME

**Stay with me, remain here with me,
Watch and pray, watch and pray.**

READING TWO: The Shadow of Betrayal – Matthew 26:47-56

SILENCE

TAIZE RESPONSE: HYMN 417 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

SOUTHWELL

**Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
From earth-born passion, set me free, and make me pure within.**

READING THREE: The Shadow of Denial – Matthew 26:57-75

SILENCE

RESPONSE: HYMN 218

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

READING FOUR: The Shadow of a Mock Trial – Matthew 27:1-26

SILENCE

CHORAL ANTHEM

"When I Survey"

Christianson

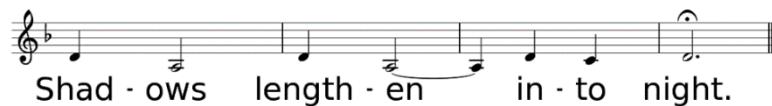
READING FIVE: The Shadow of the Crucifixion – Matthew 27:27-42

SILENCE

RESPONSE: HYMN 207 (Refrain Only)

Reader: Is any sorrow like the sorrow that afflicts me?

Choir Sings:



Reader: Women of Jerusalem! Do not weep for me,
But for yourselves and your children.

All Sing: Refrain

Reader: Father, forgive them! They know not what they do.

All Sing: Refrain

Reader: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All Sing: Refrain

Reader: Today you will be with me in paradise.

All Sing: Refrain

Reader: I am thirsty.

All Sing: Refrain

Reader: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

All Sing: Refrain

READING SIX: The Shadow of Agony – John 19:25-30

SILENCE

READING SEVEN: The Shadow of the Death – Matthew 27:51-54

SILENCE

THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

*(All depart in silence.
Please maintain silence until you exit the building.
Service continues on Easter Day with the worship at 10:30 a.m.)*

What is a Taizé service?

Taizé (pronounced "teh-ZAY") is a small village in the eastern part of France. Since 1940 it has been the home of an ecumenical community of men and women where prayer, three times a day, is the center of life. Part of that prayer time is spent in singing short repetitive refrains.

Thousands of people from around the world visit Taizé every year; in fact, during this Holy Week well over a thousand people will be worshipping together at Taizé.

Today we borrow from the tradition of Taizé as we offer our prayers and meditations around the cross. At times there will be cantor parts to which the congregation is asked to respond. Please feel free to sing some, stop and listen, and find harmonies.

For each Taizé song:

- the organ will play the song once;
- the choir will sing the song once;
- then the congregation will join in and sing the song 3—4 times.

You will notice that today's service includes seven short readings from scripture that will each be followed by either a Taizé song or hymn. All the words to the Taizé songs and hymns are included in the bulletin, so you will not be distracted by trying to locate a hymn in the hymnal.

We hope that you will find this service to be meaningful as together we move through the events of Good Friday.

***"Be still and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10***