

Holy Wednesday

Order for the Public Worship of God

April 1, 2026 · 12:00 p.m.

PRELUDE: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” James Montgomery, Richard Redhead
The Second Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP Chuck Jacob

Call to Worship: God invites us into His presence to worship in spirit and in truth—beginning a dialogue that continues throughout the service.

✦HYMN: No. 197 “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended” HERZLIEBSTER JESU

**Ah, holy Jesus, how has Thou offended,
That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted.
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.
Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered:
For man’s atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.
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.
Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee,
I do adore Thee, and will ever pray Thee,
Think on Thy pity and Thy love unswerving, not my deserving.**

✦INVOCATION

Invocation: The word invocation means “to appeal to” or “cry out to.” In this prayer, we lift our hands and call on our Father to come and help us worship Him for who He is and all He has done.

EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 10:11-14
(page 1006 in pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

**Holy and gracious God,
we come before You in the shadow of the cross,
aware of our sin and our need for mercy.
We confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart
or trusted You as we should.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,
but have been impatient, distracted, and self-centered.
As we remember Christ’s path to the cross,
we confess that our sin is part of the weight He bore.
Have mercy on us, O Lord.
Forgive us for what we have done
and what we have left undone.
Cleanse us, renew us, and draw us near to You.
Help us to walk in repentance and faith,
trusting in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. Ephesians 1:7-8a

*In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace,
which he lavished upon us.*

Assurance of Pardon: Having confessed our sins, the pastor declares God’s promise of forgiveness—assuring us that through Christ’s atonement, those who truly repent are freed from guilt and shame by His mercy.

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION: “Were You There” arr. Sue Wallace, John Head

*Alissa Heirigs, flugelhorn
Leo Davis, organ*

HOMILY: One Offering for All. Brett Wynne

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN: No. 192 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ST. CHRISTOPHER

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess,
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

✦BENEDICTION

Benediction: God’s people receive the Lord’s blessing and are sent into the world, carrying the hope of the Gospel.

POSTLUDE: “Ah, Holy Jesus” Paul Manz

✦Indicates congregation standing

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Maundy Thursday, April 2: 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Good Friday, April 3: 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Egg Hunt, April 4: 10:00 a.m. on the Poplar Field
Easter Sunday, April 5
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Memphis Botanic Garden
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. Services in the Sanctuary

2pc.org/easter

