



# Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

April 3, 2026

## WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The service of Tenebrae, or shadows, is a traditional Good Friday service that provides a way to keep watch with Jesus during the hours leading up to his Passion. The readings from the Gospels allow us to meditate on Jesus and those who surrounded him as he gave up his life.

Before us are twelve candles and one Christ candle. As the scriptures are read, the candles, representing those who surrounded Jesus, are extinguished. Finally, the Christ candle is removed or hidden and then returned after a brief time of silence to signify Jesus entering the tomb.

### PRELUDE

Élégie

Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

Layton Miller, cello

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The hour is at hand – Jesus Christ is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

**People: The hour is at hand—Jesus Christ is wounded for our transgressions.**

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples, “Remain here, and stay awake with me.”

**People: We keep watch with Jesus this night.**

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\* Please rise in body or spirit.

The people's responses are in **bold type**.

## LITANY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Leader: O crucified Jesus, Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, eternal Word of God,

**People: we worship you.**

Leader: O crucified Jesus, holy temple of God, dwelling place of the Most High, gate of heaven, burning flame of love,

**People: we worship you.**

Leader: O crucified Jesus, sanctuary of justice and love, full of kindness, source of all faithfulness,

**People: we worship you.**

Leader: O crucified Jesus, ruler of every heart, in you are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, in you dwells all the fullness of the Godhead,

**People: we worship you.**

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

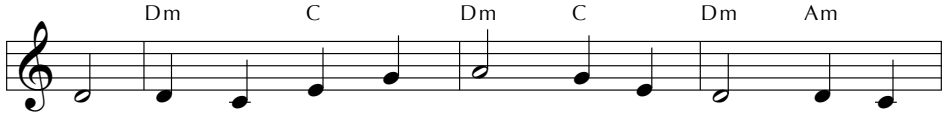
**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**People: grant us peace.**

Leader: Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

# What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What  
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to  
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of  
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous  
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my  
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

## 220 Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of  
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his

tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;  
 life ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!  
 at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
 breath - less clay: all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his  
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete; "It is fin - ished!"  
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He

griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

The composer intended this tune for "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (no. 438), but its solemn tone and small range make it an effective setting for this series of somber vignettes portraying what Christians can learn from Christ: to pray, to bear the cross, to die, and to rise.

# SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

## The Disciples Sleep While Jesus Prays

READING

Matthew 26:30-46

HYMN 220, stanza 1

Go to Dark Gethsemane

REDHEAD 76

*The first candle is extinguished.*

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## The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

READING

Matthew 26:47-56

HYMN 220, stanza 2

Go to Dark Gethsemane

REDHEAD 76

*The second candle is extinguished.*

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## Jesus Before The High Priest

READING

Matthew 26:57-68

HYMN 209, stanzas 1–2

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

*The third candle is extinguished*

HYMN 209, stanzas 3–4

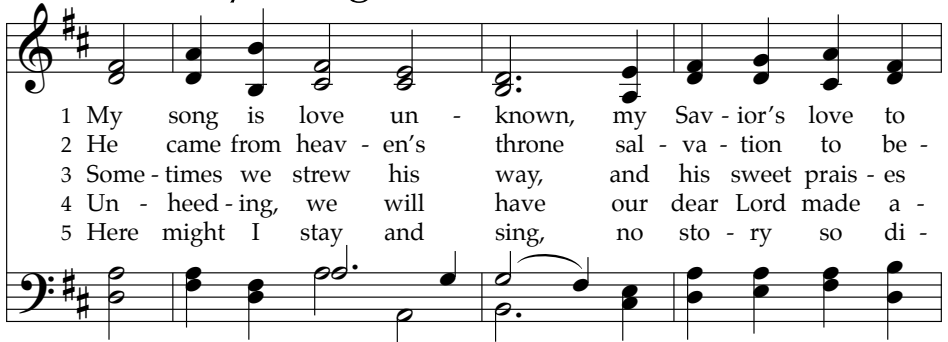
My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

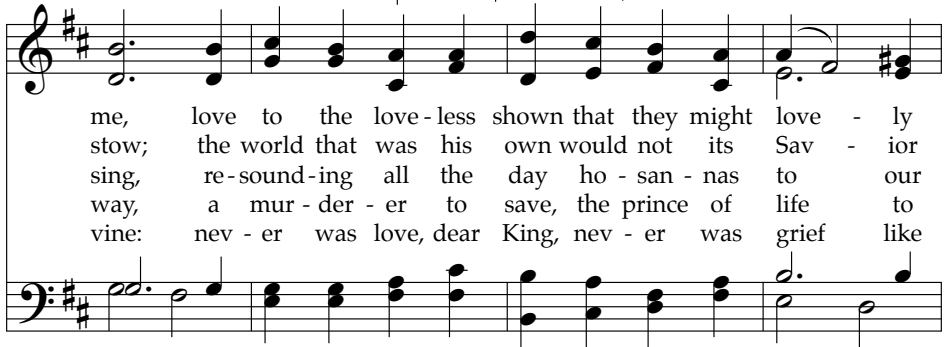
*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

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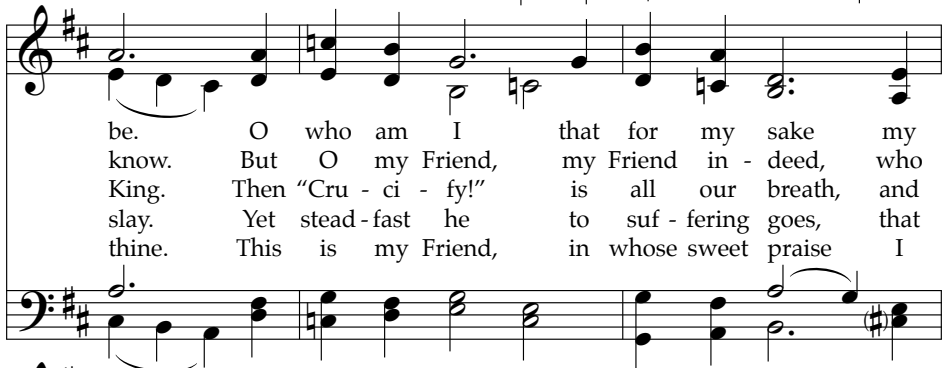
## My Song Is Love Unknown 209



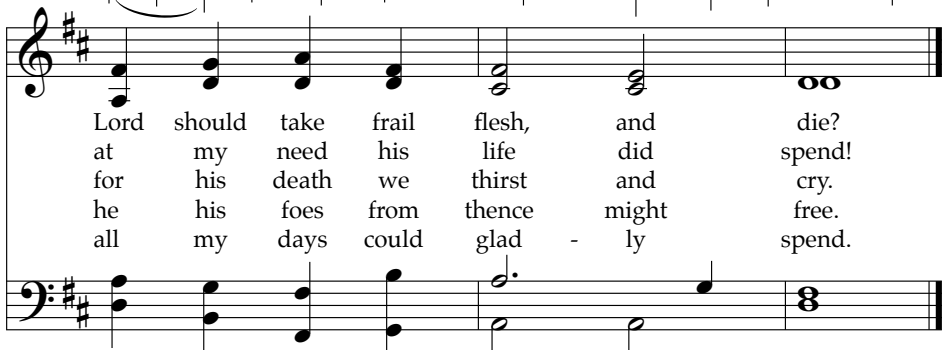
1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es  
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -  
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -



me, love to the love-less shown that they might love - ly  
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior  
 sing, re-sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to our  
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to  
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like



be. O who am I that for my sake my  
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who  
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and  
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that  
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I



Lord should take frail flesh, and die?  
 at my need his life did spend!  
 for his death we thirst and cry.  
 he his foes from thence might free.  
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier's lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ's Passion. This 17th-century text is beautifully embraced by its sensitive and lyrical 20th-century tune.

## Peter's Denial

READING

Matthew 26:69-75

HYMN 218, stanzas 1–3

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

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## Judas' Death

READING

Matthew 27:1-5

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

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## Pilate Hands Jesus Over

READING

Matthew 27:11-31

*The seventh candle is extinguished.*

ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
Layton Miller, cello

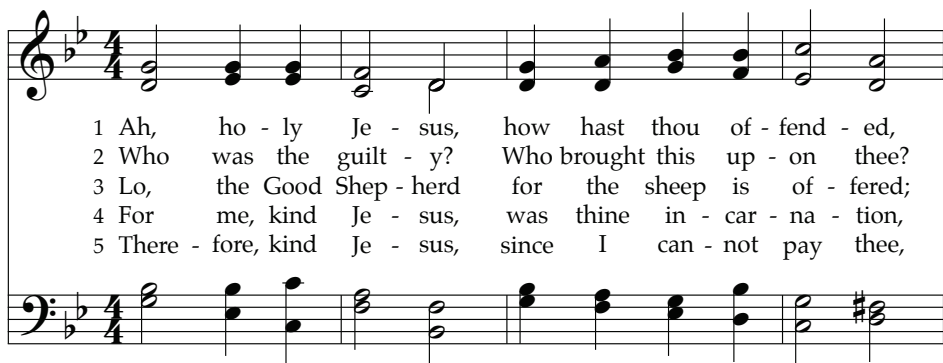
O WALY WALY  
arr. Dan Forrest

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

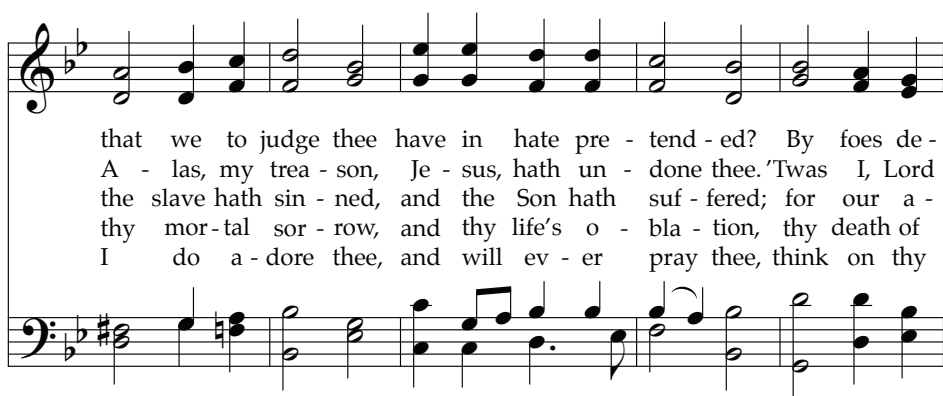
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

## 218

## Ah, Holy Jesus



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;  
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,  
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,



that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -  
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord  
 the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a -  
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's o - bla - tion, thy death of  
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy



rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!  
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

This beautiful English paraphrase of a German meditation on Christ's Passion bears testimony to the unobtrusive poetic skill and musical sensitivity of a future Poet Laureate of England. The associated chorale is no less carefully crafted and rewards singing in parts.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*The eighth candle is extinguished.*

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### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

**READING**

Matthew 27:32-44

**ANTHEM**

Were You There  
Jennifer Lowekamp, soloist

Spiritual  
arr. Moses Hogan

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

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

*The ninth candle is extinguished.*

**READING**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

*The tenth candle is extinguished.*

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## Jesus Dies

READING

Matthew 27:45-50

ANTHEM

O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done

Howard Helvey

O Love Divine, what hast thou done!  
The incarnate God hath died for me!  
The Father's coeternal Son  
Bore all my sins upon the tree!  
The Son of God for me hath died:  
My Lord, my Love, is crucified.

Is crucified for me and you,  
To bring us rebels near to God;  
Believe, believe the record true,  
Ye all are bought with Jesus' blood.  
Pardon for all flows from his side:  
My Lord, my Love, is crucified.

Behold him, all ye that pass by,  
The bleeding Prince of life and peace!  
Come, sinners, see your Savior die,  
And say, was ever grief like his?  
Come, feel with me his blood applied:  
My Lord, my Love, is crucified.

*The eleventh candle is extinguished.*

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### The Temple Curtain is Torn

READING

Matthew 27:51-54

*The twelfth candle is extinguished.*

*The Christ Candle is hidden and a bell is tolled 33 times.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (in unison)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*The Christ Candle is returned after a brief silence.*

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

*Please leave the service in silence.*



☞ **THOSE SERVING THIS EVENING** ☞

**PASTORS**

John Morgan, Pastor  
Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Chris Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries  
Norman Elton, Organist  
The WPC Chancel Choir  
Layton Miller, cello

**GREETERS**

Dick Hubbard and Rebecca Caprio

**USHERS**

Martha Jean Howell and Deana Sun

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS**

Matt Slack and John Schoenberger

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☞ **UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES** ☞

**All are invited to join us for our worship services.**

**Easter Sunday Morning • April 5**

Easter Worship Services are at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,\* and 11:00 a.m.\*\* in our Sanctuary.

The sermon “With Fear and Great Joy” is based on Matthew 28:1–10.

*We encourage everyone of all ages to attend worship on Easter Sunday.*

*\*The 9:30 a.m. service is live-streamed on [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org).*

*\*\*The 11:00 service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.*