



# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

2 APRIL 2026

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE WITH COMMUNION

**6 PM Chapel Worship**

*The Officiant enters the space in silence.  
The Service then begins immediately with the Antiphon.  
The Antiphons in bold are said by all.*

Antiphon 1

**Because I am consumed with Zeal for your House,  
the insults of those who ridicule you fall upon me.**

HYMN

*What Wondrous Love*

WONDROUS LOVE

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!**

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I Am";  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be;  
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on.**

Antiphon 1

**Because I am consumed with Zeal for your House,  
the insults of those who ridicule you fall upon me.**

*(First candle is extinguished)*

Antiphon 2

**Let those who wish me harm flee in disgrace!**

Psalm 70

O God, save me!

YHWH, help me, hurry!

**Let those who seek my life be humiliated and dazed!**

**Let those who wish me harm flee in disgrace!**

Those who jeer, “Aha! Aha!”—make them retreat, covered with shame!

**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!**

**Let those who love your salvation forever, say “God is great!!”**

**As for me, I am wretched and poor, my God—hurry to my side!**

**You are my rescuer, my help; YHWH, do not delay.**

Deliver us, O God, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.

In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety

as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Antiphon 2

**Let those who wish me harm flee in disgrace!**

*(Second candle is extinguished)*

Antiphon 3

**Arise, O God, and champion your cause.**

Psalm 74

You fixed all the limits of the land;

summer and winter you made.

**Now remember how the enemy has blasphemed you, YHWH,**

**and how a stupid people has reviled your Name!**

Don't give the vulture the life of your dove;

don't ignore forever the lives of your little ones!

**Look to your Covenant;**

**Because the dark places in the land are filled with haunts of violence!**

Don't let the downtrodden turn away in disappointment—

let the oppressed and poor praise your Name!

**Arise, O God, and champion your cause;**

**remember how the fool mocks you day after day!**

Antiphon 3

**Arise, O God, and champion your cause.**

*(Third candle is extinguished)*

## Lesson 1

A Reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet.

*Aleph.* O city, how desolate you lie, you who once swarmed with crowds!  
How once great among the nations, how you mourn like a bereaved spouse!  
Once you ruled the territories in graciousness; now you toil in servitude.

*Beth.* You weep bitterly in the night, tears run down her cheeks.  
Though many loved you, none comforts you. Your friends—they all betrayed you;  
they have joined your enemies.

*Gimel.* Judah has gone into exile, after pain and bondage.  
Dispersed among the nations, you find no resting place.  
Your oppressors overcame you while in your deep distress.

*Daleth.* The roads to Zion weep—no pilgrims attend your sacred feasts.  
Your gates are desolate; your priests cry out in pain;  
your young people are grieving, and you are in bitter distress.

*He.* Your foes have become your oppressors,  
and it is your enemies that are at ease—  
for YHWH has made you suffer because of your many sins!  
All of your children are gone into exile,  
prisoners of war in the hands of your enemies.  
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to YHWH, your God!

Responsory 1

*In monte Oliveti*

On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to Abba God:

**Abba God, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.**

**The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation.

**The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

## Lesson 2

*Waw.* All your radiance is gone, O child of Zion.  
Your leaders are like deer unable to find pasture; they race about without rest,  
pursued by the hunter.

*Zayin.* In these days of turmoil and strife,  
you remember the treasures of bygone days,  
before your people fell captive to the enemy,  
and none was left to come to your aid.  
Your enemies looked on, laughing at your destruction.

*Heth.* Jerusalem—greatly you have sinned; you are thrown away like a dirty rag.  
Those who once revered you now hold you in disdain,  
now that they have seen your nakedness.  
What could you do but cry out and and turn your face away?

*Teth.* Your clothes are soiled with your filth; you never thought about your future.  
Your destruction was beyond belief; none was left to comfort you.  
“Pay attention to my suffering, O God, for my enemy has triumphed.”  
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to YHWH, your God!

## Responsory 2

### *Tristis est anima mea*

My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death;

**remain here, and watch with me.**

**Now you shall see the crowd who will surround me;**

**you will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.**

Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man  
is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

**You will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.**

### Lesson 3

*Yod.* The enemies stretched out their hands, seizing all your treasures.  
You saw the nations plunder your sanctuary—  
the very nations God had forbidden to enter your assembly!

*Kaph.* All the people cried out and begged for bread.  
They exchanged their treasures for food to regain their strength.  
“Look, God—see for yourself! See the disdain they show me!”

*Lamed.* Is my misfortune nothing to you—you who walk past me?  
Look around, do a search: is there anyone else who suffers my pain?  
Anyone else inflicted with these torments  
which YHWH has given to me on this day of divine anger?

*Mem.* God sent down fire from the skies and into my very bones.  
The Most High laid a snare at my feet and turned me back.  
God has made a desolation out of me all day long.”

*Nun.* My own sins became my shackles, bound tightly by God’s own hand.  
Fastened around my neck, they drain me of all my strength.  
The Most High left me in the hands of my conquerors; I am helpless.  
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to YHWH, your God!

### Responsory 3

### *Ecce vidimus eum*

Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty,  
**with no looks to attract our eyes.**  
**He bore our sins and grieved for us,**  
**he was wounded for our transgressions,**  
**and by his scourging we are healed.**

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows:  
**And by his scourging we are healed.**

Antiphon 4

**God did not spare God's own Son, but delivered him up for us all.**

ANTHEM

*Abide with Me*

arr. Moses Hogan

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see—  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Antiphon 4

**God did not spare God's own Son, but delivered him up for us all.**

*(Fourth candle is extinguished)*

*Tenebrae*

Peg Hartsell Ranson

In the midst of Tenebrae I cried,  
"You are Light,  
Shine in this dreadful darkness!"  
And the words came. . .  
Not as echo but as reply,  
"You are light,  
Shine in this dreadful darkness."

Antiphon 5

**From the gates of hell, O God, deliver my soul.**

The Song of Hezekiah [Isaiah 38:10-20]

I said, "In the prime of my life I must depart;  
In the middle of my days I am consigned to the gates of Sheol;  
I have been called away for the rest of my days."  
I said, "I will no longer see YHWH in the land of the living,  
I will no longer look on mortals or be with those dwelling on the earth.  
Like a nomad's tent my dwelling has been pulled down  
and taken away from me.  
You rolled up my life, like weavers when they cut the last thread from the loom.  
Day and night you make an end of me.  
I am wracked with pain all night long.  
All my bones are broken, as if by a lion;  
Day and night you make an end of me.  
Like a swallow or a dove, I twitter, I moan.  
My eyes grow dim as I look up to the skies.  
Sovereign One, I am overwhelmed! Be my security."  
But what can I say? God promised me,  
and God brought this to pass.  
Sleep has abandoned me because of the bitterness of my soul.  
Despite all these things, Sovereign One, my soul is revived;  
you have restored me to health; and brought me back to life.  
I now see that it was good for me to suffer;  
and your love saved me from the pit of destruction.  
You have turned your back on all my sins.  
For Sheol cannot be grateful to you, death cannot praise you to the heights;  
Those who fall down to the Pit cannot hope for your faithfulness.  
The living, the living, are grateful to you, as am I all this day;  
parents make known to their children your faithfulness.  
YHWH has saved me, and we will sing and make music all the days of our lives  
in the Temple of YHWH.

Antiphon 5

**From the gates of hell, O God, deliver my soul.**

*(Fifth candle is extinguished)*

Antiphon 6

**O Death, I will be your death; O Grave, I will be your destruction.**

HYMN

*Stay with Me*

TAIZE

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

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

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

Antiphon 6

**O Death, I will be your death; O Grave, I will be your destruction.**

*(Sixth candle is extinguished)*

It was before the Feast of the Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was. The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

So during supper, Jesus— knowing that God had put all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God—rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Rabbi, you're not going to wash my feet, are you?" Jesus answered, "You don't realize what I am doing right now, but later you'll understand." Peter replied, "You'll never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Then, Rabbi, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus said, "Any who have taken a bath are clean all over and only need to wash their feet—and you're clean, though not every one of you." For Jesus knew who was to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me "Teacher" and "Sovereign"—and rightly so I am. If I, then— your Teacher and Sovereign—have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. The truth of the matter is, no subordinate is greater than the superior; no messenger outranks the sender. Once you know all these things, you'll be blessed if you put them into practice."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* HOLY COMMUNION (*Please stand as you are able.*)

They who wait upon YHWH shall renew their strength.

**They shall mount up with wings as eagles.**

They shall run and not be weary.

**They shall walk and not faint.**

\* THE INVOCATION PRAYER

**Almighty God,**

**you raised up Jesus from the grave**

**and opened the way to eternal life for us.**

**We praise you that you are a God who is free to act,**

**strong to redeem, and loving in all your ways;**

**through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

\* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God  
and in Christ all things were created.

**All things were created through Christ and for Christ.  
Christ is before all else and in Christ  
everything continues to have its being.**

It is Christ who is head of the church, Christ's body; and Christ is the firstborn of  
all of us who have life in Christ.

**It pleased God, by means of Christ,  
to reconcile everything in the person of Christ,  
both on earth and in the heavens,  
making peace through the blood of the cross of Christ.**

\* THE WORDS OF INVITATION

Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body.

**For it is one loaf of which we all partake.**

When we break the bread, we share the body of Christ.

**When we give thanks over the cup, we share the blood of Christ.**

\* THE INSTITUTION

On the night Jesus was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God and  
broke it, saying, "This is my body which is broken for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my  
blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

\* THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

**Dying, you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, we look for you to come in glory.**

\* THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*(The minister partakes of the elements and then invites the people.)*

This is the bread of heaven; this is the cup of salvation.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*(The people come forward and receive the elements by intinction.)*

The body and blood of Christ, given for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Antiphon 7

**Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.**

ANTHEM

*Evening Prayer*

Sunset to sunrise changes now,  
for God doth make his world anew;  
on the Redeemer's thorn-crowned brow  
the wonders of that dawn we view.

E'en though the sun withholds its light,  
lo! a more heavenly lamp shines here,  
and from the cross on Calvary's height  
gleams of eternity appear.

Here in o'er-whelming final strife  
the Lord of life hath victory,  
and sin is slain, and death brings life,  
and earth inherits heaven's key.

Antiphon 7

**Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.**

*After the Anthem, during the repetition of the Antiphon,  
the remaining candle is taken and hidden.*

*Christus factus est*

Christ for us became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross;  
therefore God has highly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the Name which is above every name.

*A brief silence is observed.*

*The Officiant says the following Collect.*

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family,  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed,  
and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross.

*Nothing further is said; but a noise is made,  
and the remaining candle  
is brought from its hiding place and replaced.  
By its light the Officiant and people depart in silence.*



**Holy Week @The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland**

Good Friday, April 3, 2026, 12:15PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Day, April 5, 2026 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary.



### ***About the Service of Tenebrae***

The name *Tenebrae* (the Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows”) has for centuries been applied to the ancient monastic night and early morning services (Matins and Lauds) of the last three days of Holy Week, which in medieval times came to be celebrated on the preceding evenings.

Apart from the chant of the Lamentations (in which each verse is introduced by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet), the most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains.

Toward the end of the service this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection (Matthew 28:2), the hidden candle is restored to its place, and by its light all depart in silence.

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

[firstprescle.org/giving](http://firstprescle.org/giving)

Mail to:

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Checks should be made payable to "The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland."

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND**

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**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

**Minister of Music:** Evan M. Collins

**Choir**

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Anthony Steward, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

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