



Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 18, 2025

Thank you for attending the City Reformed Good Friday Tenebrae Service. We are thankful for the friends from the many churches who are able to join us tonight. Information about our City Reformed Easter services is available online: www.cityreformed.org.

We are particularly thankful for the hospitality of First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, and that their members are able to join us tonight. Information about First Baptist Church and their Easter services can be found online: www.fbcpggh.org.

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 18, 2025

Welcome! We are thankful for those of you who are able to join us tonight. For nearly 2,000 years, the Christian church has remembered the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the central tenet of its faith. Easter and the days that lead up to it are a time to remember the gritty and bloody sacrifice of Jesus. During Easter week, we reflect on both the sorrow and joy of the ministry of Jesus Christ. On Sunday morning, we will gather to celebrate the earthshaking joy of the resurrection. But tonight we are remembering that our redemption came at a cost - a terrible cost. The Son of God was betrayed, humiliated, tortured and killed. He did this as our substitute and in so doing offers us forgiveness for our sin.

Our service this evening is a Tenebrae ("shadows") worship service in which the lights will gradually diminish as the biblical narrative moves towards the death of Christ. We use candles to highlight the service. After each of the seven readings, a candle will be extinguished. The service will end in darkness as we remember the suffering and death of Christ.

At the conclusion of the service, you are welcome to remain seated for quiet contemplation and prayer.

Nursery is available downstairs - please ask the ushers if you need assistance. Parents who have children that are unable to sit quietly are welcome to use the foyer at the rear of the sanctuary.

Prelude: Psalm 61 | Lead Me To The Rock

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko 2021)

Welcome and Introduction: Matt Koerber (City Reformed Presbyterian Church)

First Reading: John 18:1-11

Jesus Arrested - Scott Boyd (*Pastor, First Baptist Church*)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Come Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted

(Words: Joseph Swain 1785; Music: Kevin Twit 2013)

Come ye souls by sin afflicted
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down
By the broken law convicted
Through the cross behold the crown
Look to Jesus, look to Jesus
Look to Jesus mercy flows through him alone

Take his easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet
Christ will give you strength to bear it
While his grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory, safe to glory
Safe to glory where his ransomed captives meet

Blessèd are the eyes that see him
Blest the ears that hear his voice
Blessèd are the souls that trust him
And in him alone rejoice
His commandments, his commandments
His commandments then become their happy choice

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary
Light to newly opened eyes
Like full springs in deserts dreary
Is the rest the cross supplies
All who taste it, all who taste it
All who taste it shall to rest immortal rise

Look to Jesus, look to Jesus
Look to Jesus mercy flows through him alone

Candle Extinguished

Second Reading: John 18:12-27

Peter's Betrayal - Joshua Page (*Pastor, Church at Mon River*)

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret.

²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Nothing But The Blood

(Words & Music: Robert Lowry 1876; Arrangement: Daniel Justice Snoke 2017)

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my pardon this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Not of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Candle Extinguished

Third Reading: John 18:28-40

Jesus Before Pilate - Schyler Schaffer (*Student Ministry Director, Northway Christian Community/Dormont*)

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

God The Uncreated One (King Forevermore)

(Words & Music: Aaron Keyes and Pete James 2016)

God the uncreated One
The Author of salvation
Wrote the laws of space and time
And fashioned worlds to His design
The One whom angel hosts revere
Hung the stars like chandeliers
Numbered every grain of sand
Knows the heart of every man
He is King forever (2x)
He is King forevermore

God our fortress and our strength
The Rock on which we can depend
Matchless in His majesty
His power and authority
Unshaken by the schemes of man
Never changing Great I Am
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall
He is faithful through it all
Crown Him King forever (2x)
Crown Him King forevermore

Mighty God in mortal flesh
Forsaken by a traitor's kiss
The curse of sin and centuries
Did pierce the lowly Prince of Peace
Lifted high the sinless man
Crucified the spotless Lamb
Buried by the sons of man
Rescued by the Father's hand
To reign as King forever
Reign as King forever (2x)
Reign as King forevermore

King eternal God of grace
We crown You with the highest praise
Heaven shouts and saints adore
You're holy holy holy Lord
What joy in everlasting life

All is love and faith is sight
Justice rolls and praises rise
At the name of Jesus Christ
King of kings forever (2x)
King of kings forevermore

Candle Extinguished

Fourth Reading: John 19:1-16a

Crown of Thorns - Chris Richards (*Pastor, Steel City Church*)

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Ah Holy Jesus How Hast Thou Offended

(Words: Johann Heerman 1630; Music: *Herzliebster Jesu* and Johann Crueger 1640)

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast 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;
For our transgression, now the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
Think on thy mercy and thy love unswerving,
Not my deserving.

Candle Extinguished

Fifth Reading: John 19:16b-27

Crucifixion - Eddie Jones (*Pastoral Elder, Eternal City Church*)

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Psalm 23 (I Am Not Alone)

(Music & Lyrics: Laurel Taylor, Joshua Sherman, Steven Musso, and The Emerging Sound 2018)

The Lord is my Shepherd, He goes before me
Defender behind me, I won't fear
I'm filled with anointing, my cup's overflowing
No weapon can harm me, I won't fear

*Hallelujah I am not alone
He's my Comfort, always holds me close*

He always guides me through mountains and valleys
His joy is refreshing, restores my soul
Mercy and goodness give me assurance
That I'll see His glory face to face

Your Spirit lives within me
So I will walk in Your peace
Your Spirit lives within me
My vict'ry, my vict'ry (*repeat*)

Candle Extinguished

Sixth Reading: John 19:28-37

Jesus Dies - Josh Brown (*Pastor, Bellefield Presbyterian Church*)

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

Rock of Ages

(Words: Augustus Toplady 1776; Music: Thomas Hastings 1853)

Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood
From thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to the cross I cling
Naked come to thee for dress
Helpless look to thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyes shall close in death
When I wake to worlds unknown
See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee

Now Behold The Lamb

(Words & Music: Kirk Franklin 1995)

Now behold the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Born into sin that I may live again
The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Why you love me so
Lord I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God

Thank you for the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Because of your grace
I can finish this race
The Precious Lamb of God

Candle Extinguished

Seventh Reading: John 19:38-42

The Burial - Gavin Breeden (*Campus Pastor, Reformed University Fellowship*)

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Is He Worthy

(Words & Music: Ben Shive and Andrew Peterson 2018)

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
Do you know that all the dark won't stop
The light from getting through? (We do)
Do you wish that you could
See it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming? (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord to be
The light within our midst? (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this?
(It is)

*Is anyone worthy?
Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal
And open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah
Who conquered the grave
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died*

*To ransom the slave
Is He worthy, is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this?
He is*

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus our Messiah hold
Forever those He loves? (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us?
(He does)

*Is anyone worthy?
Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal
And open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah
Who conquered the grave
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died
To ransom the slave
From ev'ry people and tribe,
Every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom
And priests to God
To reign with the Son
Is He worthy, is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy, is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this?*

He is He is
He is He is
He is worthy, worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? (He is)

Nearer My God To Thee

(Words: Sarah Adams 1841; Music: Lowell Mason 1856)

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
Yet in my heart am I nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto Heav'n;
All that Thou sendest me, in mercy giv'n;
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Then in my Father's home, safe and at rest,
There in my Savior's love, perfectly blest;
Age after age to be nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Candle Extinguished

Readers

Matt Koerber	<i>Pastor, City Reformed Presbyterian Church</i>
Scott Boyd	<i>Pastor, First Baptist Church</i>
Joshua Page	<i>Pastor, The Church At Mon River</i>
Schylar Schaeffer	<i>Student Ministry Director, Northway Christian Community/Dormont</i>
Chris Richards	<i>Pastor, Steel City Church</i>
Eddie Jones	<i>Pastoral Elder, Eternal City Church</i>
Josh Brown	<i>Pastor, Bellefield Presbyterian Church</i>
Gavin Breeden	<i>Campus Pastor, Reformed University Fellowship</i>