



**Good Friday
Service**

April 3, 2026

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
COMMUNITY

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

TENEBRAE:
A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

April 3, 2026
7:00pm

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE
TODAY'S LITURGIST IS DAWN BARNES

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*** Congregation Standing** [CC] = closed-captioned

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer

“Were You There?”

WELCOME

CENTERING HYMN

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

UM #328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s grace.
I can hear the brush of angel’s wings;
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, the healer’s hands are nailed to a cross.
The King of Kings is crowned with thorns.
Today, he sets us free, even when he is bound to a tree.
That is why it is Good Friday.
We worship the Lord who sacrificed on our behalf.

*PRAYER OF APPROACH

Holy God, as darkness falls upon this day, draw us into the mystery of the cross. Strip away our distractions, quiet our restless hearts, and help us to stand with Christ in his suffering and love. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Karen Randall

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

GTG #82

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and merciful God,
On this day of sorrow, we confess that we have
sinned against you and against one another. Like
those who cried out for crucifixion, we have chosen
what is easy over what is right. We have remained
silent in the face of injustice. We have turned
away from suffering when it was ours to bear with
others. Forgive us, we pray. Create in us clean hearts,
O God, and renew a right spirit within us, that we
may follow you more faithfully, even to the cross, and
beyond it, into new life. We pray in your holy name.
Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven
Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Lord Have Mercy”

GTG 581

(sung twice)

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

ANTHEM

“The Crucifixion” (Video)

SCRIPTURE READING

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

Matthew 27: 32-36; 45-50

HOMILY

“Bearing The Cross of Jesus”

A Service of Shadows

SCRIPTURE READING

The Shadow of Betrayal

Dawn Barnes

Matthew 26:20-25

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane – *Verses 1&2*”

GTG 220

Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter’s power;
your Redeemer’s conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

SCRIPTURE READING

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

**The Shadow of Agony of the Spirit and Arrest
Matthew 26:36-50**

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane – *Verses 3&4*”
GTG 220

Calvary’s mournful mountain climb; there,
adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God’s own sacrifice complete;
“It is finished!”; hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.
Early hasten to the tomb
where they laid his breathless clay:
all is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

SCRIPTURE READING

**The Shadow of Denial
Matthew 26:69-27:5**

Dawn Barnes

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This – *Verses 1-2*”
GTG 215

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!

SCRIPTURE READING

Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

The Shadow of Accusation
Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This – *Verses 3-4*”
GTG 215

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 through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

SCRIPTURE READING

Dawn Barnes

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation
Matthew 27:31-43

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Were You There? – *Verses 1-2*”
GTG 228

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

SCRIPTURE READING

Pastor Hiyiwot Teshome

The Shadow of Death
Matthew 27:45-54

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Were You There? – *Verses 3-4*”

GTG 228

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

O! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

O! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

SCRIPTURE READING

Dawn Barnes

The Shadow of Burial

Matthew 27:57-60

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Were You There? – *Verse 5*”

GTG 228

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, as we worship you, we pray that you might receive us as your people, for whom Jesus was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and suffered death upon the cross. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus Remember Me”

GTG 227

(sung 4 times)

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom

*SILENT DEPARTURE

Upcoming Services

Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am at SJU

**Please be aware that the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
will be closed Monday, April 6, 2026
in observance of Easter Monday**



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH

A UM/PCUSA Community

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