



GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024

12:00 noon

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Worship of God

Childcare is available for children 4 and under on the first floor nursery hall.

*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.

Large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please ask a member of our Welcome Team for assistance.

The Service of Tenebrae, which is Latin for “shadows” or “darkness,” is an observance of Jesus’ passion and death. This is a solemn opportunity to reflect on the dark journey to Golgotha and the passion and suffering of Jesus, who was killed at human hands. Through the reading of scripture and the successive extinguishing of light, we are invited into the dramatic narrative of Jesus’ betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion.

The Processional

“Where He Leads Me” | NORRIS

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

The Prayer | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Hymn*

UMH 288 “Were You There” | WERE YOU THERE

Verses 1-3

**The Prayer of Confession* | Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby

God of Passion, on this day of betrayal and death, we remember those times we have been part of the crowd seeking our best interest over what is right and good. God of Fidelity, on this day of fear and denial, we remember those times when we chose the path of safety over loyalty to your way. God of Constant Presence, on this day of despair and loss, we remember the ways we have wandered away from your presence, only to complain that we are abandoned. God of the Cross, for all the ways we have missed the mark, all the ways we have come up short, forgive us. Through your grace bring us back into relationship. Help us find the path again.

All pray in silence.

Even in the face of betrayal and rebellion, even in the face of death and denial, even in the face of fear and despair, God's grace knows no bounds. We are forgiven, we are called back into relationship, we are set back on the path that leads to the realm of God. Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness; by Jesus' wounds we are healed and forgiven.

By Jesus' wounds we are healed and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**The Hymn*

"Were You There" | Verse 4

Sung: **Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

The Meditation | Rev. Betsy Butler

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

The Passion of Jesus Christ

The First Candle | *The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit*

Matthew 26:36-50

The Hymn

UMH 290 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” | REDHEAD 76

Verse 1

Sung: **Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter’s power; your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour. Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

The Second Candle | The Shadow of Arrest

Matthew 26:51-68

The Congregational Response

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” | TAIZÉ

Sung: **O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

The Third Candle | The Shadow of Denial

Matthew 26:69-75

The Choral Response

“When Jesus Wept” | William Billings; arr. Douglas Wagner

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir with members of the Athens First Ringers

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound. When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

The Fourth Candle | The Shadow of Accusation

Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29

The Hymn

UMH 286 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" | PASSION CHORALE

Verse 1

Sung: **O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown: how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!**

The Fifth Candle | The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation

Matthew 27:31-43

The Congregational Response

Jesus, Remember Me | TAIZÉ

Sung: **Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

The Sixth Candle | The Shadow of Death

Matthew 27:45-54

The Kyrie | Antonin Dvorak

Translation: *Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison .

The Seventh Candle | The Shadow of Burial

Matthew 27:57-60

The Choral Response

"God So Loved the World" from *The Crucifixion* | John Stainer

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world. But that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17

The Extinguishing of the Christ Candle | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

Isaiah 53:3-6

All depart in silence.

*The sanctuary will be kept in silence and open for prayer until 3:00 p.m.,
a commemoration of the Lord's hours on the cross.*



Come and experience the hope and joy of Easter with us at Athens First United Methodist Church!

Join us on **Easter Sunday, March 31**, as we celebrate our risen Savior with three triumphant worship services.

Our 7:00 a.m. Sunrise at the Steeple service will take place in front of our sanctuary on North Lumpkin Street. It will feature uplifting music, an inspiring message, and coffee and refreshments courtesy of the **Café Racer** food truck.

Our traditional 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. sanctuary worship services will feature our choir, brass, and handbells. You're also invited to help us decorate our floral Easter cross located outside in front of the church. Overflow seating will be available for both services.

We hope you can join us as we celebrate the good news of Easter —

“He is not here. He is Risen!”

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31

Sunrise at the Steeple 7:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Worship 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

Rev. Jeremy Lawson | Senior Minister
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Rev. Betsy Butler | Associate Minister
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Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby | Associate Minister
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Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson | Associate Minister
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ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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