



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church



Holy Thursday

April 2, 2026

7:30 PM

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, KENSINGTON MD

A TENEBRAE SERVICE FOR HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 PM

APRIL 2, 2026

Thank you for worshipping with us this evening.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome you to St. Paul's, a Reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. Jesus Christ accepts all, excluding none. So we welcome and affirm you who are gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. We welcome you without regard to your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, culture, race, ethnicity, ability, education, or age. We welcome you no matter your immigration, marital, or economic status. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome and affirm you as one of God's children into our community of God's unbounded love. All are celebrated here and all are safe.

This bulletin will guide our service tonight. Additional information can be found following the order of worship.

Tonight we gather for a Holy Week service of Tenebrae. "Tenebrae" is from the Latin word for darkness. This ancient service, rooted in medieval Holy Week traditions dating back to the ninth century, has been adapted in many churches into a single, powerful evening of worship often held on Maundy Thursday. We will begin in stillness and light, gradually entering into the story of Jesus's final days before his death, and journeying into darkness through scripture and music.

(* - please stand in body or spirit)

Gathering for Worship

Silent Processional

*Call to Worship

Leader: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Leader: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,

People: and we loved darkness rather than light.

Leader: Our souls long for the cup of salvation.

People: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Let us worship Christ, who invites us to his table.

Prayer of Illumination

Lay Reader

**O God, by the example of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,
you taught us the greatness of true humility,
and call us to watch with him, in his passion.
Give us grace to serve one another in all lowliness,
and to enter into the fellowship of his suffering,
in his name and for his sake. Amen.**

Proclamation of the Word

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament page 173

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Invitation to Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion

Prayer of Confession & Pardon

UM Hymnal p. 12

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

UM Hymnal p. 13-14

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation and concludes:

L: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

P: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The pastor continues the thanksgiving and concludes:

L: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

P: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

The pastor continues and concludes:

L: All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

P: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

UM Hymnal, #895

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread & Cup

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

arr. Joel Raney

Sanctuary Choir

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss 'til now was thine,
Yet though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
I make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love to thee.

A Service of Tenebrae

The pastors will read the story of the final days of Jesus's life on earth, taken from John 18:1–19:42. After each reading, a candle will be extinguished.

The First Reading of the Passion of Christ

Music

Prayer at Gethsemane
Sanctuary Choir

Joel Raney

Father, I come on bended knee, Father, please let this cup pass from me,
O Father! Have you forgotten me, pleading, here at Gethsemane?
Father, can you hear me pray?

Father, how could you let this be? Father, why have you forsaken me?
O Father! See what they've done to me, crucified, dying, on Calvary!
Father, can you hear me pray?

"Not my will but thine be done," prayed God's only Son.
Father forgive them; they know not what they do.
Father, Father, I commend myself to you.

Readings of the Passion of Christ

Music

Forsaken
Sanctuary Choir

Dan Forrest

"How long, O God, will you neglect my prayer?
Will you forget these tears of dark despair?
Yet not my will, but yours alone be done.
Forsake not me, your sinless Son.
I, Christ the Son, obey your great command,
Enduring punishment for sinful man.
As Son and silent Lamb, I choose this path,
Accept rejection to appease your wrath."

Final Readings of the Passion of Christ

*Hymn

Drop, Drop Slow Tears

S
A

Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beau - teous feet, which

T
B

Detailed description: This system shows the first two lines of the hymn. The Soprano and Alto parts are on a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The Tenor and Bass parts are on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beau - teous feet, which".

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Dismissal

Silent Recessional

The congregation departs in silence.



THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Worship music tonight has been made possible in part through generous gifts from members of this congregation, and through the Anne and Gene Garrett Memorial Music Fund, named in loving memory of life-long supporters whose legacy provides St. Paul's UMC with the ongoing gift of music.

Discipleship and Giving

We will not pass the offering plates during our worship service tonight. Your presence and prayers during this Holy Week journey is a gift. If you wish to make a contribution, the offering plate can be found at the front of the Sanctuary. Offerings by check may be made out to St. Paul's UMC. The QR code will take you to our secure online giving options at stpaulsk.org. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Please see more details in the announcements section below.

Good Friday – April 3, worship at 7:30 PM

Organist Marvin Mills presents a program of solemn music

First Service of Easter – April 5, worship at 7:00 AM

Sunrise Worship in Clum-Kennedy Park, 10290 Frederick Ave., Kensington MD

Easter Sunday – April 5, worship at 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Worship in the Sanctuary with Choir, Brass, and Communion



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Weekly News – Visit stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news or scan the QR code to find all the announcements, links, and event details shared in our Weekly News. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).

Welcome! – **Restrooms** including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office, near the water fountain. **Large-print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. **Learn more!** Please read more about worship at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Holy Week and Easter Worship – Mark your calendars with these worship times as we move from the somber season of Lent into the joy of Easter.

- **Good Friday** – *April 3, worship at 7:30 PM.* Please note – this service will **NOT** be livestreamed. Commemorate Jesus’s death with a program in-person in the Sanctuary featuring music selected by Mr. Marvin Mills, Organist.
- **First Service of Easter** – *April 5, worship at 7:00 AM.* This simple outdoor sunrise service celebrates the resurrection in the garden-like setting of Clum-Kennedy Park at 10290 Frederick Ave., Kensington MD. Parking is available in the lot between Johnson’s flowers and Old Town Market on Kensington Parkway. David Weaver and Beth Pierce will provide guitar music. Please bring a chair and dress comfortably for the weather.
- **Easter Sunday** – *April 5, worship at 9:00 & 10:30 AM.* Both services in the Sanctuary will feature Choir, Brass, and Communion as we celebrate Easter. The 10:30 service will be livestreamed at stpaulsk.org.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – *April 5, after 10:30 worship.* All friends of St. Paul’s in Grade 5 and younger are welcome to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt immediately following 10:30 AM worship. Please bring your own basket or bag if possible. We will gather in the Octagon. Students will be escorted by age group to Reinhardt Park (across from St. Paul’s front doors) for the egg hunt.
- **Easter Break!** – *St. Paul’s will be closed on Monday, April 6.* We return to regular drop-in hours on April 7. Appointments are encouraged since individual clergy and staff availability may vary!



SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

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LEADING AND SERVING

Senior Pastor: Rev. Sheridan Allmond, sallmond@stpaulsk.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, joeyhm@stpaulsk.org

Music Director: Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen, tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

Organist: Mr. Marvin Mills, mmills@stpaulsk.org

Bookkeeping & Facilities: Ms. Tracey Furman, tfurman@stpaulsk.org

Communications & Administration: Dr. Erin Bone Steele, stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

A/V Team: John & Biljana Regan; John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Guest Musicians

Violin: Hilde Singer

Cello: Amy Stennett Smith

Piano: Janghyo Yoo





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