

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2026

A Tenebrae Service of Darkness

7:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*  
Eric Gastier, organist

*David M. Cherwien*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend David Rice

In your hands he placed himself:

all that he was, all that he had ever been,  
all his beauty, all his obedience, all his loving.

**In God's hands he placed himself.**

**He was returning to his father, he was going home.**

For all who have died,

for all who love them and miss them:

**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

HYMN 215

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

*WONDROUS LOVE*

*HAVE MERCY ON US*

O God, from whose eyes the measure of our faith is not hidden,  
wrench from us now all religiosity,  
all rules and regulations of our scheduled selves  
that separate us from your Holy Spirit.

**O God, who calls each of us by name to be the church,  
give us love enough to make a difference,  
give us vision enough to follow,  
give us endurance enough to hold steadfast  
in the face of the unholy.**

O God, who claims us as disciples,  
bless us now and touch us with your holiness  
that we might have commitment enough to be good news to the poor.

**O God of the bruised, we pray for healing.**  
**Comfort those who cry in dark corners:**  
**the lonely, the strangers, the weary, the fearful,**  
**the disappointed, the anxious, the depressed,**  
**the forsaken, the dispirited, the grieving,**  
**and those who lie in sickness and in pain.**

O God who wept over Jerusalem,  
open our eyes to those around us  
who scream in silence the depth of their despair.

**O God of compassion, heal our hard hearts to tenderness.**

O God of the oppressed,  
fire us with justice that we might proclaim liberty to the captives.

**O God who gave us the rainbow and parted the Red Sea,**  
**we dare to pray for miracles for the powerless.**

O God of the hungry,  
we pray for those who have not bread.

Remove, O God, the bondage of hunger  
by removing our shackles so that we might share our bread.

**O God of the homeless,**  
**we pray for those who have no land.**  
**We pray that you will open the doors of our hearts**  
**and let your wandering people in.**

O God of the captives,  
have mercy on those who must live out their lives  
enslaved to someone else  
because of race or politics or economics or faith.  
Loose our bonds that we might risk our own securities on their behalf.

**O God of peace,**  
**give peace to our hearts and to our nation and to our world.**  
**O Lamb of God, have mercy upon us!**

*(‘Have Mercy on Us’ from Kneeling in Jerusalem by Ann Weems)*

*Attende Domine (Schola Sanctae Scholasticae, UK)*

Nancy Almquist, soprano

*Refrain: Look down, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against thee.*

*To thee, high King, Redeemer of all, weeping we lift our eyes;  
hear, Christ, the prayers of thy servants. (Refrain)*

*Right hand of the Father, cornerstone, path of salvation and gate of heaven,  
cleanse the stains of our sins. (Refrain)*

*O God, we pray thy majesty, tend thy holy ears to our sighs,  
mercifully forgive our offenses. (Refrain)*

*To thee we confess committed sin, with contrite heart we unveil hidden faults;  
may thy mercy, Redeemer, forgive. (Refrain)*

*Seized though innocent, led away unresisting, condemned by false witness in place of the guilty,  
Christ keep those whom thou hast redeemed. (Refrain)*

#### THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:30-46 Carol Gates

Matthew 26:47-56 Pat Miles

Matthew 26:57-75 Diana Rice

Matthew 27:1-14 Troy McMillen

Matthew 27:15:26 Val Fulton

Matthew 27:27-37 Joan Firmin

*Ah, Holy Jesus* Karolyn Rice, flute

*Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have 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.*

Matthew 27:38-44 Susie Slack

Matthew 27:45-56 Emily McMillen

*Were You There? (Spiritual)* David Rice

You may remain in the pews or leave the sanctuary in silence.

