April 3, 2026

Good Friday

7:30pm Worship

First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time
or have grown up here at FPC,
we are glad you have joined us for worship this evening.

** indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

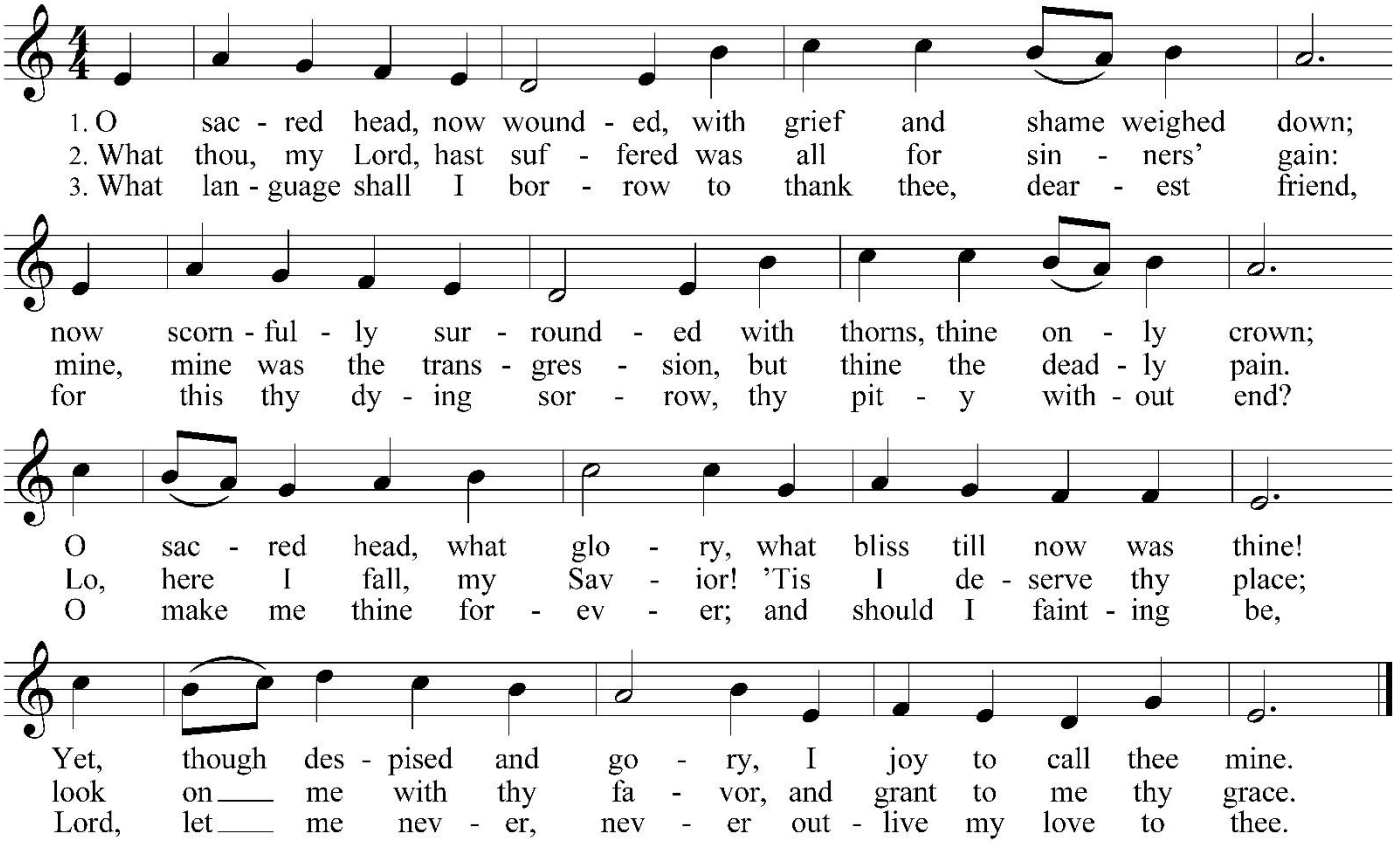
Prelude *O, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin* BWV 622 J.S. Bach

Welcome

Candle Lighting and Opening Litany

One: In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep. Then God said,
All: "Let there be light."
One: And there was light. And every day since, the light has come and gone.
All: The sun has risen and set.
One: The moon has waxed and waned.
All: The light is still with us.
One: In the beginning was the Word, which brought all things into being. What has come into being through him is life,
All: the light of all people.
One: The light shined in the darkness,
All: and the darkness did not overtake it.
One: When God made the light, when the light of all people came into the world, God did not send away the dark.
All: The darkness remains.
One: God created the night for dreams and clarity,
All: an exhaling of the light.
One: Let us enter this holy darkness to bear witness to the light of the world who was extinguished by violence.
All: Let us worship our Incarnate God.

***Hymn No. 221** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* PASSION CHORALE



First Reading Luke 22:47–53

Visio Divina

Choral Selection *Tristis Est Anima Mea* Johann Kuhnau

Rose Hunsberger, Maria Southworth, Sarah Dworjan,
Fiona McKinney, Joshua Gurwitz, Peter Mostert, Tom Monkell

My soul is sad even unto death, stand here, and watch with me:
now you shall see the crowd that surrounds me:
you will take flight, and I will go and be sacrificed for you.
Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of God is delivered into the hands of sinners.

Second Reading Luke 23:13–35

Choral Selection *Vinea Mea Electra* Francis Poulenc

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

You, my chosen vineyard, I have planted you:
How have you then turned to bitterness, to crucify me and release Barabbas.
I protected you from danger and picked out stones and built a tower for thy protection.
You, my chosen vineyard, I have planted you:
How have you then turned to bitterness, to crucify me and release Barabbas.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

One: Holy God, we can easily see ourselves in any number of the people surrounding Jesus in his final days.
We are Judas, who since Jesus is not the Messiah he wanted, betrays Jesus.
Likewise, we betray Jesus when we prioritize status, wealth, and security.
We are the soldiers, using our power to maintain the status quo which serves us.
We are the disciples, brandishing our weapons to fight violence with violence,
and we are the high priest's servant, victims of a world hell-bent on winning.

All: Prince of Peace, forgive us.

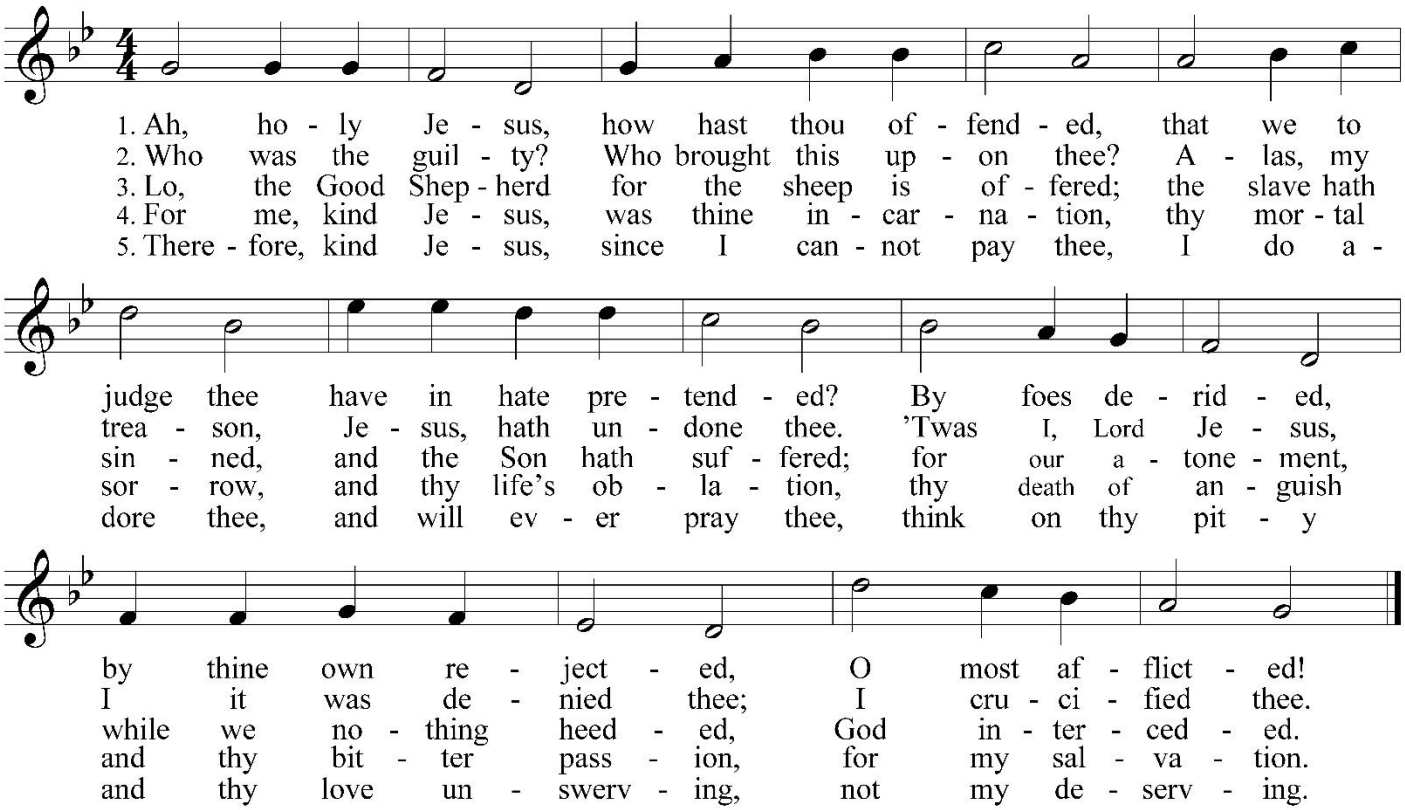
One: We are Herod, finding our entertainment at the expense of other people's dignity.
We are Pilate, excusing ourselves from the blame that is rightfully ours.
We are the crowd, foaming at the mouth and demanding blood,
and we are Barabbas, our lives spared while others are crucified.

All: Prince of Peace, forgive us.

One: Forgive us, we pray, for the parts we have played. Set us free from the sin that chokes the world, threatening to extinguish all that is good and beautiful. Break the cycles of violence, step into the machinery of a world fueled by division and disrupt us.

All: Forgive us, Prince of Peace. Kyrie eleison. Have mercy on us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn No. 218** *Ah, Holy Jesus* HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Third Reading Luke 23:33–38

Reflecting on the Cross – A **Good Friday Litany**

One: Our Lenten journey with Jesus of Nazareth is near its end.

All: **We hear rumors against him. Whispers that he cannot be the true Messiah; that he isn't what we really want.**

One: We are too quick to believe the unfounded accusations made. We have turned against him.

All: We hear voices yelling, "Crucify him, crucify him!" and are shocked to learn it is our voices.

One: We have deserted him, abandoned him to the guards who mock and strike him with their fists.

All: We see him whipped and beaten, and are surprised to look down and see that we are holding a whip.

One: We have let this innocent man be crucified like a common criminal.

All: We look in horror as the nails are driven into him, and are shocked to see that we are holding a hammer.

One: We wonder why one so faithful and loving had to face the agony of rejection and Death.

All: Jesus was wounded for our transgressions and he was bruised for our iniquities.

One: Jesus experienced the depths of what it means to be human. He has experienced what we have experienced, no matter how awful and painful.

All: We have experienced pain and suffering. He has been there, too. He experienced death just as we will.

One: His death on the cross is an act of radical solidarity with us. He is truly Emmanuel, God with us. Thanks be to God.

Choral Selection *Crucifixus* from *Mass in B Minor* J.S. Bach

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

He was crucified, under Pontius Pilot
died, and was buried.

Fourth Reading Luke 23:44–46

Silence and Final Meditation

Choral Selection *Arise My Soul Arise* Dan Forrest

Sean Robert Jones, *violin*

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears: before the throne my surety stands,
before the throne my surety stands, my name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, oh, forgive,” they cry, “Forgive him, oh, forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled; his pard’ning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child; I can no longer fear:
with confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
and “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

Extinguishing the Light

Departing in Silence

Worshipers, please depart the sanctuary in silence.

Serving you this evening:

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Amy Robinson & Harriet Seeley
Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely
Audio Visual Support: Bruce Brynolfson

Come to Easter Celebration on April 5

FOCUS Service at 6:30am

Swan Street Stairs, west side of Capital Park. A 30-minute outdoor worship service; please bring a lawn chair for your comfort.

9:15 Easter Breakfast in Assembly Hall hosted by the Hospitality Deacon Team. Celebrate with family and friends before worship. Enjoy a delicious spread of warm breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, and pastries.

Worship Service at 10:30am: in the sanctuary & livestreamed on YouTube

Fellowship Time: Following the service in Assembly Hall

First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

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Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Denise Relf, Youth Director

Parts of the liturgy by Rev Anna Stickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
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