

# Kernstown United Methodist Church

"Strives to welcome ALL into a loving church family that glorifies God through worship, nurture, and outreach to our neighbors."

April 3, 2026



Good Friday

## Tenebrae Service

### Kernstown UMC Lent 2026 From the Cross to the Crown

**April 3 Good Friday**  
Tenebrae Service at 7 pm

**April 5 Easter**  
Sunrise Service at Opequon Presby. Church  
Shelter at 6 am with breakfast following

Easter Service, Holy Communion & Cantata at KUMC at 10:30  
Bring fresh flowers for crosses at both services

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Gómez

Prelude (*Prepare your hearts for worship*)

David Landrum

\*Invocational Opening

God is light, in Whom there is no darkness at all.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

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

**and we loved darkness rather than light.**

\*Hymn 286 UMH *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

Prayer

**Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; Who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

*Soldiers Wove a Crown of Thorns*

### The Passion of Jesus Christ

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you** (*silent prayer*).

Most gracious God, look with mercy upon your family gathered here for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, given into sinful hands, and suffered death upon the cross. Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of His passion; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

## Blessing

Special Music      *Were You There?*

Lesson I – Matthew 26:36-46

*Jesus' disciples fall asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane*

FIRST CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Lesson II – Matthew 26:47-56

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

SECOND CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Lesson III – Matthew 26:57-68

*Jesus Before the Sanhedrin*

THIRD CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Lesson IV – Matthew 26:69-75

*Peter's Denial*

FOURTH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Lesson V – Matthew 27:15-26

*Jesus before Pilate*

FIFTH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Lesson VI – Matthew 27:27-44

*The soldiers mock Jesus*

SIXTH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Lesson VII – Matthew 27:45-50

*The Death of Jesus*

CHRIST CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Lesson VIII – Matthew 27:51-54

*Surely, He was the Son of God*

Go in peace. May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you, now and forever. Amen.

### SILENCE

*Please remain seated in silence until the narthex is lighted to facilitate leaving. Silence is observed throughout the sanctuary from this time forward. Each person is encouraged to pray and meditate as long as he or she desires, then to depart in silence.*

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\*Stand as you are able

**Bold print-all respond**

UMH=United Methodist Hymnal (red) CCLI # 11408803

The service of worship tonight is taken from an early Christian service called Tenebrae. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." Tonight, we will experience only a small portion of Christ's pain and suffering the day of His crucifixion. One of the most conspicuous features of the service is the stripping of the altar paraments and the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. As it gets darker and darker, we can reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real for Jesus that evening. Toward the end of the service, the Christ candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of His death (Matthew 27) and His resurrection (Matthew 28:2). At the moment of the earthquake, the temple veil was torn apart, making the Holy of Holies exposed to public view. This is understood to represent God's change toward us with direct access to Him, no longer requiring the ceremonial acts of the priests for our forgiveness of sin. The hidden candle is then restored to its place, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. A familiar tune is then played with a harmonica. By this single light we all depart this service in silence.