

Worship Services

Traditional - 8:45 am - Sanctuary
Convergent - 10:30 am - Sanctuary
Word & Table - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 5 pm

Our Pastors

Rev. Dr. Brad Strait, Senior Pastor
Gary Hein, Executive Pastor
Rev. Chris Piehl, Associate Pastor
Rev. Phil Bremerman, Associate Pastor
Jeanne Gaessler, Assistant Pastor
Josh Peck, Assistant Pastor

Assisting in Worship

Evan Mazunik, Dir. of Worship & Liturgy
Bohee Paek, Organist
Rebecca Sarian, Contemporary Worship Leader

Good Friday

April 3, 2026
7:00 pm



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A member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service (Outdoors): 6:00 am

Indoor Services: 8:00, 9:30, & 11:15 am



Good Friday - A Tenebrae Service

We Enter into Worship

Prelude

Please enter in silence.

Have Mercy on Me (from Psalm 51) - J. S. Bach

Greeting & Prayer

Introit

Agnus Dei - Wainwright, arr. Mazunik

Hymn of Gathering

#257 What Wondrous Love is This (vs. 1, 2 & 3) - WONDROUS LOVE

Confession of Sin

Following each "Where are you?" section, we respond with this refrain:

People: I am here.

We Remember Christ's Passion

~The Shadow of Agony~

We Observe a Moment of Silence

Gospel Reading - from Luke 22:39-46

Hymn of Response

#286 Stay With Me

Worship Notes

If you are tuning in to Cherry Creek, welcome and thank you for worshipping with us this evening.

What does "Tenebrae" mean?

Tenebrae is a Latin word, meaning "shadows" or "darkness." A tenebrae service, then, is one which is characterized by diminishing light. Light is a symbol of joy and life. Darkness is a symbol of mourning and death. It's fitting that as the lights are extinguished this evening, we remember that Jesus Christ—the Light of the World—was extinguished at the hands of mere humans...His own creation.

The paradox of the name

"Good Friday." We might sometimes overlook it, but when we think about what all happened on the original Good Friday, it seems puzzling that we would call it "good." The death of Christ was the greatest injustice that ever was and ever will be—why should an all-holy, supremely perfect God die when it is sinful humanity that deserves death? We realize that Good Friday is "good" for us. It is good because of what it gave to us. On the other hand, the more we love Christ, the more this "good" day becomes bittersweet to us. Thanks be to God.

What is the silence about? It is rather uncommon to experience silence of any kind in our hyper-entertained culture. Something is always on: television, phone,



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computer, dishwasher, or something else. The noise distracts us, and we often forget to focus on Christ through the noise.

And yet, we at CCPC sometimes use silence because it's our most appropriate response in worship. For instance, even before final judgment is pronounced in heaven before the opening of the seventh seal on the scroll of destiny, there is silence in heaven (Revelation 8:1). The response of silence essentially allows us to sit in awe of what has just been read in Scripture or sung or said. It is particularly appropriate that we do so corporately, that we participate together in the silence. As we experience times of silence throughout this service, we are all encouraged to meditate on Scripture or to use the time to focus on Christ and thank Him for His glorious salvation, and to repent of our known sin.

"Stay With Me" is a chorus from the Taizé community, founded by Brother Roger Schutz in 1940. This monastic group of 100 brothers from both Protestant and Catholic traditions draws more than 100,000 youth annually from around the world. Taizé was planted in the wreckage of war-torn France to create a community of hope in the midst of despair. Allow their simple, repetitive music to draw you closer to God as you meditate on Him this evening.

A bare chancel signifies a time of penitence, mourning, and reflection. The usual adornments of our chancel (flags, flowers, and other accessories) are absent. The only thing remaining is the cross...a fitting reminder for Good Friday and of the reality that we must find all the sufficiency of our lives met in Jesus.

The black shroud over the cross is a symbol of death and mourning. This is for us the darkest and brightest of days. Traditions across Christianity remember Good Friday by shrouding the cross.

~The Shadow of Betrayal~

We Observe a Moment of Silence

Gospel Reading - Luke 22:47-53

Hymn of Response

#272 Go to Dark Gethsemane

~The Shadow of Judgment~

We Observe a Moment of Silence

Gospel Reading - Luke 23:32-38

Hymn of Response

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

~The Shadow of Death~

We Observe a Moment of Silence

Gospel Reading - Luke 23:44-49

Afterwards, the Bible will be slammed shut, symbolizing the closing of the tomb after the death of Christ.

Anthem

Lamb of God - arr. Christiansen

Silence in the Darkness

We Receive the Word by Hearing

Scripture Luke 23:32-49, page 1050 in pew Bible

Sermon - Rev. Dr. Brad Strait

Series: Godspeed Pilgrim

Message: In Our Shoes

We Receive the Word by Tasting

Holy Communion

Were You There - arr. Keverson

Adagio for Strings - Barber

The Shrouding of the Cross

Benediction

Dismissal

Prayer rails are up if you wish to come forward to pray.

Please exit in silence.

Prayer for Good Friday

Most Holy God, On this dark night we remember the suffering and death of Jesus our Christ. Grant in Your mercy that we may draw near to Christ, hanging in the balance, high on the cross. Stir in our hearts the memory that there is no resurrection without crucifixion. Into Your hands we commit our spirits, this night and forever more. Amen. (by Karen Turner)

Good Friday services: neither funerals for Jesus nor exercises in guilt.

"Contrary to rumor, the church's observance of Good Friday, which is often accompanied by a decrescendo of light, is not primarily designed to induce a crescendo of guilt. You and I may have a lot of that to deal with—and dealing with it may be a very redemptive thing. But make no mistake: We gather on Good Friday not to wallow in guilt, but to announce that sin and guilt have been atoned for, conquered, healed, addressed, dealt with once and for all, in heaven and on earth through the blood of the cross. Nor is this decrescendo of light designed to generate a crescendo of sadness. True enough, the story is filled with sorrow and shame and agony. Indispensably so. But this is no funeral for Jesus. We know how the story turns out. We live in Easter hope 365 days a year, and the story we tell today is worth telling because it is an act in the Easter drama. But why then the darkness and the shadows and the solemnity? In world that is starved for joyful solemnity, in a church that is definitely starved for joyful solemnity, in a frantically busy academic community that is parched for serene wonder, the darkness and shadows help us do some serious beholding—as in "Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." This decrescendo of light is an invitation to a crescendo of wonder. (by John Witvliet at Christianity Today in "A Crescendo of Wonder")

Prayer chain If you would like to be kept up-to-date on prayer needs in our church body, please sign up for the CCPC Prayer chain at ccpcprays@cherrycreekpres.org

Assisting in Worship String Quartet: Laura Schleiger, Kellie Johnson, violins; Sarah Stenbakken, viola; Heather Hadley, cello; Sanctuary Choir; Travis Holland, soloist; David Knopp, Dir. of Events; Media Team; Usher Team

Giving In response to God's goodness, we are called to offer our whole selves—heart and mind, soul, and strength—in joyful adoration in our daily lives. One way we do that is through giving financially, which you can do in person after the service, by mail or here: <https://cherrycreekpres.org/give>

