
GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3, 2026



WORTHINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform

WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice
Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Betsy Rice
Pastor for Member Ministries

Russell Nagy
Director of Music Ministries

Nicholas Robison
Director for Youth Ministries

Annie Barner
Coord. for Children's
Ministries

Kim Anderson, Organist

*Visit our website for a
complete list of WPC staff.*

SERVING US TONIGHT

**Usher Team B: Bob Freed;
Jordan Quickel, captains;**
Pete Barnhart, Dave Balser
& Carol Balser, Chris &
Kathy Campbell, J.B &
Susan Love, Dave & Nancy
Wilson

Video: Bill Yost

CONTACT US

Mon - Thurs: 8AM – 4PM;
Fri: 8AM – 2PM
wpchurch@wpcnow.org
614.885.5355 | wpcnow.org

In Christ's love, we...

CONNECT ♦ **SERVE** ♦ **TRANSFORM**

WELCOME

Welcome to Worthington Presbyterian Church. This congregation has worshiped together in the Worthington community since 1805. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible features of the building include:

- Handicap parking near east and west entrances
- Wheelchair ramp at the main entrance
- Elevator access
- Multiple accessible restrooms
- T-coil hearing capabilities for those with compatible hearing aids
- Listening devices for the hearing impaired available



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please write prayer requests on the pew prayer cards and place them in the offering plate.

ON THE COVER

Deposition 1

© 2026 John August Swanson | Eyekons

THE DEPOSITION is based on a sketch I did in the late 1970s, from Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio's 16th century painting, The Entombment of Christ.

I developed the sketch into a gestural painting throughout the end of 2011, and continued to work on the piece through 2013 to create a second variation of the artwork. In my paintings, I slowly added colors and rough suggested shapes to indicate movement and lamentation.

As I added to the figures, I tried to give them a certain character, and a sense of what brings them together in tragedy.

- John August Swanson

Worthington Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
A Tenebrae Service for Good Friday

April 3, 2026

7:00 PM

Tenebrae is a meditation on Christ's suffering with readings, music, silence, and darkness symbolizing this solemn occasion. Candles are gradually extinguished, culminating in darkness, reflecting on the depth of Christ's suffering.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME

Pastor Betsy Rice

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"The Road to Calvary"
Kim Anderson, organist

Edward Broughton

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor Matt Reeves

One: We come with trembling hearts **(Repeat)**
to remember the pain, **(Repeat)**
to feel the silence, **(Repeat)**
and to face the cost of love. **(Repeat)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Matt

God who knows pain, you bore the weight of injustice, but we turn away. You carried the cross, but we choose comfort. You cried out for us, but we stay silent. Forgive us. Uncover what we hide. Soften our hardened hearts. Hold us in your mercy. Through Christ our Savior. Amen.

(Silent prayer)

* Assurance of Pardon

OPENING REFLECTION

Pastor Matt

*** HYMN #215**

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

THE FIRST WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:24-25, 32-34a

Jennifer Hambrick

So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished...

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

(The first candle is extinguished)

Reflection

"Father, forgive them..."

Nina Foncham

Silent Reflection

Unison Prayer of Response: **With amazement and awe we marvel, O Lord. You prayed on the cross for us! You prayed for your enemies—those who were mocking you, beating you, crucifying you. You prayed for the religious leaders. You prayed for the soldiers. And you prayed for us—for every time we betray you, deny you, sin against you. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that your forgiveness will flow through us to others: those we live with every day, those who have wronged us, those we are tempted to fear or hate. In the name of the one who prayed for us, we pray. Amen.**

* Hymn #444

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

stanzas 1, 3 and 4

THE SECOND WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:39-43

Timothy Dickey

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

(The second candle is extinguished)

Reflection

"Today, You Will Be with Me in Paradise"

Pastor Tom Rice

Silent Reflection

Unison Prayer of Response: **Lord Jesus, remember us, we pray. Remember us now—today—and remember us when you come in the fullness of your kingdom. We praise you for your word to the criminal on the cross and your word to us: the promise of paradise, the promise of your presence — that we will be with you forever and that with you there is no forgetting. Amen.**

* Hymn #443

“There Is a Redeemer”

THE THIRD WORD

Scripture Reading

John 19:25-27

Jennifer Hambrick

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

(The third candle is extinguished)

Reflection

“Woman, Here Is Your Son...”

Pastor Betsy Rice

Silent Reflection

Unison Prayer of Response: Thank you, Lord, for the work you were doing even on the cross—creating a new community of love—the church; a community united in you, called to transcend barriers of nationality, race, culture, language. Help us to be true to your work on the cross, accepting, and loving, and supporting one another as members of your family. Amen.

* Hymn #314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

stanzas 1, 2 and 5

THE FOURTH WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:39-46

Timothy Dickey

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

(The fourth candle is extinguished)

Reflection

“My God, My God...”

Noella Abrokwa

Silent Reflection

Unison Prayer of Response: **What wondrous love is this, O my soul! Lord Jesus, you took our place on the cross, experiencing abandonment, God-forsakenness because of our sin. When we feel abandoned—when we feel God-forsaken—you know what we are feeling, and more than that: you are with us in our suffering. Thank you for your love which knows no bounds. Thank you for the salvation which comes from it. Amen.**

* Hymn #212

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

THE FIFTH WORD

Scripture Reading

John 19:28-29

Jennifer Hambrick

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

(The fifth candle is extinguished)

Reflection

“I am thirsty...”

Aidan Crockett

Silent Reflection

Unison Prayer of Response: **O Lord! It breaks our hearts to think of the suffering and torment you went through on the cross. You, the Living Water, suffering thirst—for us. You, the Righteous One, suffering condemnation—for us. Let us drink deeply from the well of your living water. Let it well up into a fountain of eternal life. By your Spirit guide us to share that life with others. Amen.**

* Hymn #221

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

THE SIXTH WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:44-49

Timothy Dickey

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” And when all the crowds who had gathered there for

this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

Reflection “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” Shine Robison

Silent Reflection

Unison Prayer of Response: “Into your hands I commit my spirit.” Lord, that was your prayer, and it is our prayer too. No matter what is happening, we know that we are in your good, strong hands, eternally secure. Amen.

* Hymn #223 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

THE SEVENTH WORD

Scripture Reading John 19:29-30 Jennifer Hambrick

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(The seventh candle is extinguished)

Reflection “It is finished” Nick Robison

Silent Reflection

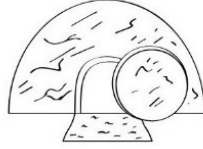
Unison Prayer of Response: Gracious God, the work is finished, accomplished, completed on the cross. What is left for us but to give ourselves in gratitude? Into your hands we commit our spirits and our lives We give ourselves to you, Lord—body and soul, all that we are, all that we have—as a living sacrifice of praise. Amen.

Solo “Were You There?”
Anita Berry, soloist

* DEPART IN SILENCE

We omit the benediction and the postlude tonight to signify that our worship continues on Easter. See next page for details.

The Reflections in tonight's service are adapted from "The Seven Last Words," by Kathryn Roelofs and Norman B. Steen, in Reformed Worship, Issue #102 (December 2011).



JOIN US ON EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service at 7AM

This brief, reflective, informal service begins outdoors near dawn to announce the Resurrection, then moves to the Chapel for communion. A continental breakfast follows the service. In case of rain, the service will be held in the Chapel.

Worship Services at 9AM and 11AM

Two identical services feature brass, organ, and anthems by the Chancel Choir. Come, enjoy the beauty of the lilies, and help us raise our Alleluias to our Risen Lord!

Egg Hunt at 12:15PM

Join us on the front lawn of the church for an Easter Egg Hunt! If it rains, we will move inside the church. Please bring your own basket!

For more details, visit:
wpcnow.org/easter



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