

Jesus called out with a
loud voice, "Father,
into your hands I
commit my spirit."

When he had said this,
he breathed his last.

Luke 23:46 (NIV)



Good Friday Worship
Service of Tenebrae

April 3, 2026

7:00 pm

St. John's Christian Church

"The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ"

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP OF GOD!

Good Friday - Service of Tenebrae

“Tenebrae” means shadows or darkness. This is a service which moves from light to darkness, symbolizing the fading loyalty of the followers of Jesus, impressing upon us the reality of sin which made necessary Jesus’ death for us. Eight candles are used in the service. Seven represent the seven readings as well as the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. The eighth represents the Christ Candle. One by one, the candles will be extinguished, reminding us of the darkness which covered the earth at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion, and the darkness which would exist in our lives had the “Light of the World” not come. The exit of the Christ Candle at the close of the service represents the fulfillment of the sacrifice of the Cross, and the loss in our lives without him. The Christ Candle is not extinguished, symbolic of the eternal light of God’s love and in anticipation of the Spirit of Christ being alive in the world.

Prelude “Above All”

Welcome, Scripture and Prayer Psalm 22

†Call to Worship

L: Tonight we gather to remember the journey and the suffering of the cross.

P: As God’s people we seek to remember his sacrifice.

L: We journey through God’s Word aware of our thoughts and emotions.

P: We respond with thanksgiving, humbleness, brokenness and grace.

†Hymn #183, “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Scripture Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

Evening Message “In Times of Need”

“The Passion of Our Lord”

The First Candle - The Darkness of Betrayal

The Words of the Psalmist Psalm 34:15-18

The Words in the Upper Room Matthew 26:20-25

The Second Candle – The Darkness of Desertion

The Words of the Psalmist Psalm 41:7-9

The Words of the Way to the Garden Matthew 26:31-35

The Third Candle – The Darkness of Lonliness

The Words of the Psalmist Psalm 31:9-14

The Words in the Garden Matthew 26:36-46

Hymn “The Old Rugged Cross”

The Fourth Candle - The Darkness of Accusation
 The Words of Trial Mark 14:53, 57-64; 15:1-5; Luke 23:7, 11

The Fifth Candle – The Darkness of Denial
 The Words of the Courtyard Matthew 26:69-75
 The Words of Remorse Matthew 27:1-5
 Special Music Joshua Reeb “I Cannot Watch Them”

The Sixth Candle – The Darkness of Rejection
 The Words Before Pilate Luke 23:13-24
 Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”
 (Standing the Cross)

Adult Choir “The Wondrous Cross”

The Seventh Candle - The Darkness of Crucifixion and Burial
 The Words on the Cross Luke 23:33-34, 39-43; John 19:26-30
 Matthew 27:45-46; Luke 23:46-48
 (Draping of the Cross)

The Words of Burial Luke 23:50-56

The Christ Candle - Exit of the Christ Candle
(the sound of thunder symbolizes the agony of Jesus’ death and the earthquake)

The Lord’s Prayer (debt/debtors)

Song of the Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:4-9

†Hymn vs. 1-3, “Were You There?”

†Dismissal Blessing Please depart from the sanctuary tonight in silence.

†Exit Offering

OUR LOOSE OFFERINGS will support the ministries of the Archbold Lifewise Academy, and the Archbold Fish Pantry.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Accompanist	Lynne Christman	Lay Reader	Brad Roth
Song Leader	David Stuckey	Head Usher	Richard Spiess
Sound Tech	James Grime	Easy Worship	Tom Hines
Live Stream	Ryan Christman	Draping the Cross	Richard Spiess

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 5:7-9 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

April 5 **Easter Sunday! He is Risen!**

- 7:00AM Sunrise Service - created and led by Senior High Youth, a blessed way to greet the morning and celebrate the glorious good news of Christ's Resurrection! (Sanctuary)
- 8:00AM Easter Breakfast
- 8:45AM Kids Easter Egg Hunt (JYF hosting) in the Chapel
- 9:15AM Sunday School/Faith Village/Confirmation
- 10:30AM Easter Worship - Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Easter worship of music and scripture.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Dir. of Youth & Young Adults - Jocelyn Walker (Cell: 419-575-4218)
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