



# First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

**April 18, 2025 – Good Friday Tenebrae – 7 pm**

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**\*Please stand as you are able**

**Prelude:** "Sarabande" from Cello Suite No. 2 BWV 1008  
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Dale Jeong, *cellist*

**\*Responsive Call to Worship**

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry, *Interim Senior Pastor*

Leader: The God of the Covenant draws us to the Eternal with laws that are carved within us.

**People: We are the people of God, for our Creator's promises are true.**

Leader: Offer up sacrifices of thanksgiving and call on God's name day by day.

**People: From the least of us to the greatest, we seek to know the One who knows us.**

Leader: Draw near with hearts that are true and hold fast to your confession of hope.

**People: We will not neglect to meet together, for God bids us to encourage one another.**

**All: Let us worship God together this Good Friday night.**

**\*Hymn:** "Though I May Speak"

Torey Gricks, *tenor* and Emma Brown Baker, *soprano*

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Merry

Gracious God, whose love for us is unfailing, we confess that we fail to fulfill Your will. Though You have bound Yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to You. In Jesus, You serve us freely, but we refuse Your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love You fully or love one another as You command. In Your mercy, forgive us and cleanse us. Lead us once again to Your table, and unite us with Christ, the Bread of Life.

**Time of Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Scripture Reading:** John 19:30-37

<sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. <sup>31</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup> The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup> The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," <sup>37</sup> and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

**Sermon:** "It Is Finished"

Rev. Merry

**\*Hymn:** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

## ***A Time of Shadows***

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**SHADOW OF DESERTION:** Matthew 26:30-35

Trey McFarland

**Hymn:** *“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (verse 1)*

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see;

Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

**SHADOW OF AGONIZING SPIRIT:** Matthew 26:36-46

Kathy Davis

**Hymn:** *“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended?” (verse 1)*

Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,  
that mortal judgment has on you descended?

By foes derided, by your own rejected,  
O most afflicted!

**SHADOW OF BETRAYAL:** Matthew 26:20-25

Donald Larter

**Hymn:** *“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended?” (verse 2)*

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?  
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone you.

'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;  
I crucified you.

**SHADOW OF DENIAL:** Matthew 26:69-75

Judy Shipley

**Hymn:** *“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (verse 2)*

Follow to the judgment hall;  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
O the worm-wood and the gall!

O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

**SHADOW OF ACCUSATION:** Matthew 27:11-14, 20-26

Donald Larter

**Hymn:** *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (verse 1)*

Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand;  
The shadow of a mighty rock  
Within a weary land;

A home within the wilderness,  
A rest upon the way,  
From burns beneath the noontide heat  
And burdens of the day.

**SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION:** Matthew 27:27-38

Charlie Claudon

**Hymn:** *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (verse 2)*

Upon that cross of Jesus  
Mine eyes at times can see  
The very dying form of One  
Who suffer'd there for me;

And from my stricken heart, with tears,  
Two wonders I confess:  
The wonders of redeeming love,  
And my unworthiness.

**SHADOW OF DEATH:** Matthew 27:39-50

Trey McFarland

**Strepitus**      *“Strepitus” is the Latin word for din, crash or uproar, as in the sound of an earthquake.*

**Christ Candle is Extinguished**

**Solo:** *“Were You There?”*

Torey Gricks, *tenor*

**Departure in Silence:** You are welcome to sit in darkness together for a moment until the lights come back on. Please exit the sanctuary in silence. This is the only Celebration of Worship in the liturgical year that does not end with a benediction as we journey and await Jesus' Resurrection on Sunday morning. *Consider celebrating the Resurrection with us at our Easter Sunday service at 10:45 a.m.*

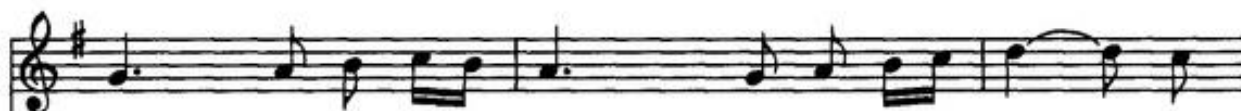
# Though I May Speak

O WALY WALY LM

Hal Hopson, 1972

English folk melody  
Harm. John Weaver, 1988

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, And have the  
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, And striv - ing  
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, Our spir - its



gift to all in - spire, And have not love, my  
 so my love pro - fess, But not be given by  
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide



words are vain; As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
 love with - in, The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
 ev - ery deed; By this we wor - ship and are freed.



## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

C F G C E Am E Am

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
 2 My Lord, what you did suf - fer was all for sin - ners' gain;  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you, dear - est Friend,

C F G C E7/B Am E Am

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, your on - ly crown.  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but yours the dead - ly pain.  
 for this, your dy - ing sor - row, your mer - cy with - out end?

Em F Csus C F Dm A

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry and bless - ing you have known!  
 So here I kneel, my Sav - ior, for I de - serve your place;  
 Lord, make me yours for - ev - er, a loy - al ser - vant true,

D G Am G C F Gsus G C

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I claim you as my own.  
 look on me with your fa - vor and save me by your grace.  
 and let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love for you.