



historic faith. present love. future hope.

## **We Welcome One and All**

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

**April 3, 2026**

**6:45 pm**

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

[www.strchurch.org](http://www.strchurch.org)



**Good Friday: Tenebrae**  
**"The Service of Shadows"**  
**April 3, 2026**

Tenebrae, which is a Latin word meaning "shadows" or "darkness," has been observed in the church of Jesus Christ since the fourth century. Tonight, we join with the Christian church of all ages to recall the passion of our Lord. The gradual extinguishing of the candles will be accompanied by hymns, choral anthems, and readings from Scripture. You are invited to contemplate the cross of Christ and the wondrous gift given to us by our gracious and loving God.

*(Please remain seated for the singing of the hymns tonight)*

**Prelude**                    **"Four Chorale-Preludes, op. 122"**

Johannes Brahms

Kenneth Dake

I. My Jesus Leadeth Me

II. O World, I Now Must Leave Thee

III / IV. O Sacred Head Now Wounded

**Call to Worship** (from Isaiah 53:1-3)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Light has come into the world.

**But the world loved darkness rather than light.**

Come, let us worship the Lord, who was obedient even to death on a cross.

**Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

**Prayer**

**Introit**

**"Near the Cross"**

Poirier

Andrea Lee, Phoebe Smith-Charles, Yolanda Thorpe

Jesus, keep me near the cross  
There, a precious fountain  
Free to all, a healing stream  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain  
In the cross in the cross  
Be my glory ever  
Till my restless soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river  
Near the cross, a trembling soul  
Love and mercy found me  
There, the Bright and Morning Star  
Sheds its beams around me  
Near the cross, O Lamb of God  
Bring its scenes before me  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadows o'er me

## **THE DARKNESS DESCENDS**

**Scripture: John 11:45-53**

**Hymn #197 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus' ST. CHRISTOPHER**

**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 the burning of the noontide heat  
And the burden of the day**

**Upon that cross of Jesus  
Mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One  
Who suffered there for me  
And from my stricken heart, with tears  
Two wonders I confess  
The wonders of redeeming love  
And my unworthiness**

I take, O cross, thy shadow  
For my abiding place  
I ask no other sunshine  
Than the sunshine of His face  
Content to let the world go by  
To know no gain or loss  
My sinful self my only shame  
My glory all the cross

## Choral Anthem "The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me"

Cottrell

### THE SHADOW OF DARKNESS

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46

\*Hymn 'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow' WOODWORTH

'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow  
The star is dimmed that lately shone  
'Tis midnight in the garden now  
The suffering Savior prays alone  
  
'Tis midnight, and from all removed  
The Savior wrestles lone with fears  
Even that disciple whom He loved  
Heeds not the Savior's grief and tears

*The first light is extinguished*

### THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Scripture: Matthew 26:47-56

Musical Offering

"Wayfaring Stranger/I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Michael Barr, trumpet

arr. DeCesare

The second light is extinguished

# THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

**Scripture: Matthew 26:69-75**

**Meditation:** ~Pastor Nate DeWard

**Hymn #349 'My Jesus, I Love Thee' v 1 & 2 GORDON**

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine  
For Thee, all the follies of sin I resign  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree  
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now

The third light is extinguished

# THE SHADOW OF PERSECUTION

**Scripture: Luke 22:63-23:12**

**Trio "The Wounded Rose"** Irish Melody, arr. Nolan

O Jesus, wounded Rose, Your fragrance is grace  
The garden sighs for You, and waits for Your embrace  
O bloom of Jesse's stem, You wilt in agony  
Your petals fall as blood on the sod of Calvary  
O wounded Rose, You bow upon the tree  
O wounded Rose, the garden waits for Thee  
O Jesus, wounded Rose, You wear the thorns of sin  
They pierce Your sacred heart so we can bloom again  
O Jesus, wounded Rose, rest 'til the morn  
For soon the sun will rise, and hope will be reborn

The fourth light is extinguished

# THE SHADOW OF INJUSTICE

**Scripture:**

**Luke 23:13-25**

## **Hymn #200 'What Wondrous Love Is This' v 1 & 2**

Appalachian Folk Hymn

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down  
When I was sinking down, sinking down  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul**

**Solo**

### **"Via Dolorosa"**

Borop/Sprague

Andrea Lee

Down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem that day  
The soldiers tried to clear the narrow street  
But the crowd pressed in to see  
The man condemned to die on Calvary  
He was bleeding from a beating  
There were stripes upon His back  
And He wore a crown of thorns upon His head  
And He bore with every step  
The scorn of those who cried out for His death  
Down the Via Dolorosa, called the way of suffering  
Like a lamb came the Messiah, Christ the King  
But He chose to walk that road out of  
His love for you and me  
Down the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary  
The blood that would cleanse the souls of all men  
Made its way to the heart of Jerusalem  
Down the Via Dolorosa, called the way of suffering  
Like a lamb came the Messiah, Christ the King  
But He chose to walk that road out of His love for you and me  
Down the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary

The fifth light is extinguished

## THE SHADOW OF MISUNDERSTANDING

Hymn #548 'The Old Rugged Cross' v 1 & 3

Bennard

On a hill far away stood an old, rugged cross  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame  
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain

*Chorus:*

So, I'll cherish the old, rugged cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown

In that old rugged cross stained with blood so divine  
A wondrous beauty I see  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died  
To pardon and sanctify me (*chorus*)

The sixth light is extinguished

## THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Scripture: John 19:28-30

Meditation: ~Pastor Randy Weener

Solo "Were You There?" Spiritual

Dr. Ronald Nimmo

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

## The seventh light is extinguished

# THE RETURN OF LIGHT

The Christ candle is removed for a time, symbolizing Christ's three days in the tomb.

**The Bell Tolls:** The bell will toll once for each year of our Lord's earthly life. The light then returns and casts its light into the sanctuary, and onto each of us, showing that the Light of the World can never be extinguished.

## Postlude

## "Adagio"

Marcello/Bach arr. Scott

You are invited to sit and contemplate the cross of Christ, each person mindful of his or her responsibility to share the Good News of God's love with the world. The sanctuary will remain open for a time, available for personal silent prayer and reflection.

## Depart in Silence...

### Leading Worship Today:

<b>Ministers:</b>	All of us worshiping together
<b>Preaching:</b>	Transitional Pastor Nate DeWard, Visiting Pastor Randy Weener
<b>Music:</b>	Chanelle Schaffer, Michael Barr - trumpet Kenneth Dake - organ, the Adult Choir
<b>Trio:</b>	Andrea Lee, Phoebe Smith-Charles, Yolanda Thorpe
<b>Soloists:</b>	Andrea Lee, Dr. Ronald Nimmo
<b>AV/Livestream:</b>	James Anderson, James Cobb, Ariel Rosenthal, Lyra Rosenthal, Trey Thompson and Dave Whitter