



Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service • April 2, 2026 • 7:00 pm
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Grace and peace to you, and welcome!

The Service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a Service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae. From this night, Christ entered into his passion, and as lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death on Good Friday. We remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the sudden sound of the “strepitus”; and through the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the Service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate Easter victory.

**PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.*

THE GATHERING

Prelude:

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß (from *Orgelbüchlein*, BWV 622) Johann Sebastian Bach
(O man, bewail thy grievous fall)

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Leader: In the growing darkness we gather.

People: **Our Lenten journey has brought us here.**

Leader: Jesus, our Teacher and Lord has set before us reminders of his service, his love, his sacrifice.

People: **Here we see a towel, a bowl, bread, a cup.**

Leader: He gives us an example and a commandment

People: **that we love one another as he has loved us.**

Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

All **Happy are all who take refuge in him,
Let us bring our praise to God!**

Prayer of Invocation

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Spirit of Christ, be with us now. Guide us in the hour of trouble; awaken us when we sleep. Help us to face the cross upon which you died for our sake; help us to face the crosses we must carry. For we are your disciples—we would follow you even in fear and fainting. Lead us through life and into death and through death to life eternal, for we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in you. Amen.**

***Hymn No. 221**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Passion Chorale

1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Confession

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Trusting in the unwavering love of Jesus Christ, who has delivered us from sin and death, let us confess our sin.

Prayers of Confession

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts,

All: and still you love us—you have loved us to the end.

Leader: We have denied you,

All: and we have denied our calling to serve one another.

Leader: We have betrayed you,

All: and we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.

Leader: Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.

All: Teach us to love and serve you faithfully and to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us,

Silent prayer

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel: "God proves God's love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Therefore, people of God, we are assured that our sins are forgiven, that we are brought to new life in Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all!

All: **And also with you.**

Congregation greets one another and shares the peace of Christ.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Matthew 26:17-30 *Jesus' Last Supper*

Linda Martin

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard?

All: **And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

The first candle is extinguished

Sermon

Post Tenebras Lux

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to The Lord's Table

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Music during Communion:

In monte oliveti

Giovanni Croce

In monte oliveti

oravit ad Patrem:

Pater, si fieri potest,

transeat a me calix iste.

Spiritus quidem promptus est,

caro autem infirma.

Fiat voluntas tua.

Upon the mount of olives

he prayed to the Father:

Father, if thou hast the power,

Take from me this great cup of sorrow.

For yet the spirit wills to live,

though the body is weary.

Thy will be done, my Father.

FPCNC Choir

Prayer After Communion (unison)

The Rev. Scott Herr

O Lord our God, we rise from this table knowing a love beyond our deserving. Thank you for giving us a place at your table; for serving us the bread of life; for offering to us the cup of salvation. In humility and hope, we go now from this night to your promised day. In Christ we pray. Amen.

THE PASSION TENEBRAE

Matthew 26:36-47 *Jesus in Gethsemane*

Terence D. Flanagan

Leader: He was despised and rejected by others;
All: a man suffering and acquainted with infirmity.

The second candle is extinguished

Response #227: Jesus Remember Me

Remember Me

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support.

Matthew 26:48-56 *Jesus' arrest*

Linda Martin

Leader: He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth.
All: Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

The third candle is extinguished

Response #227: Jesus Remember Me (see above)

Remember Me

Matthew 26:69-75 *Peter's denial*

Elizabeth Miller

Leader: All we like sheep have gone astray;
All: we have turned to our own way.

The fourth candle is extinguished

Response #227: Jesus Remember Me (see above)

Remember Me

Matthew 26:59-67, 27:1-2, 11-26 *The trial*

Armin Thies

Leader: By perversion of justice he was taken away.

All: **Who could have imagined his future?**

The fifth candle is extinguished

Response #227: Jesus Remember Me (see Page 5)

Remember Me

Matthew 27:33-44 *The crucifixion*

Terence D. Flanagan

Leader: He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.

All: **Upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.**

The sixth candle is extinguished

Response #227: Jesus Remember Me (see Page 5)

Remember Me

Matthew 27:45-51, 54, 57-60 *Jesus' death and burial*

Maxine Gaddis

Leader: They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich,

All: **although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.**

The seventh candle is extinguished

Response #227: Jesus Remember Me (see Page 5)

Remember Me

Solo:

Were You There

Were You There

Lisa Flanagan - soprano

The paraments are stripped

The Christ candle is removed

The Strepitus

Please depart in silence after the lights are raised.

Tonight in Worship, we celebrate the Sacrament of Communion also known as the Eucharist, a commemoration of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Our communion bread is gluten-free and the cup is grape juice so that all who wish to partake of the Sacrament may do so.

Stripping of the Paraments

Why do we strip the Sanctuary of the Paraments and all color and objects of worship? It's a tradition that acknowledges the betrayal and abandonment of Jesus by all of his disciples. It prepares the Sanctuary for Good Friday Worship when we remember what Christ did for us that we could not do for ourselves. By stripping away all of our signs of adoration and honor, we admit to those times in life when we deny our Lord. As Paul writes, "Christ died to rescue sinners," including us.

HOLY WEEK

GOOD FRIDAY

Community Service
April 3 - 6:00 PM

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
5 Oenoke Ridge
New Canaan, CT

Sponsored By:
Community Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
United Methodist Church of New Canaan
Waveny Lifecare Network



Come Join Us! Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Service	March 29, 10:00am
Maundy Thursday Service	April 2, 7:00pm
Good Friday Community Service @ St. Michael's Lutheran Church	April 3, 6:00pm
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service	April 5, 7:00am
Easter Sunday Breakfast	April 5, 8:00am
Easter Sunday Service	April 5, 10:00am
Easter Egg Hunt	April 5, 11:30am

All Are Welcome!
178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT
www.fpcnc.org 203-966-0002 ext. 1

JOIN US FOR


Easter Sunday Worship

April 5, 2026 at 10:00am
with Choir, Brass, Timpani & Organ



Scott Herr - Senior Pastor
Terence J. Flanagan - Director of Music & Fine Arts



First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan



Join Us For Our Easter Egg Hunt

Kids of all ages can enjoy the fun of finding dozens of eggs in the gardens at FPCNC. Come join us!

Sunday, April 5th
Egg Hunt starts immediately following worship.



Good Friday – April 3

6:00pm Seven Last Words Service (@ St. Michael's Lutheran Church of New Canaan)

Easter Sunday – April 5

7:00am Sunrise Service

Memorial Garden (weather permitting)

There will be a light breakfast in the Common Room at 8:00am, please join us.

10:00am Easter Service with Holy Communion

Featuring festive music with brass, tympani, organ, our FPCNC Choir, guests, and soloists.

Everyone will join in singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah at the close of the Service.

Easter Egg Hunt (immediately following Worship)

After Worship don't forget to join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt outside immediately following our Worship Service. All children are invited to participate. Join us in the Common Room for coffee, juice and light snacks and gather for an organized start before the children find their Easter Eggs.

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### THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

Lisa Flanagan – soprano, Jaime Ratcliffe – alto, Nikolas Brannan – tenor, Devin Mitchell – bass

**Lay Readers:** Terence D. Flanagan, Maxine Gaddis, Linda Martin, Elizabeth Miller, and Armin Thies

**Usher:** Paul Martin

**Cross Bearer:** Jan Lucie

**Communion Preparer:** Jan Lucie

### MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

### OUR PASTORS

The Reverend Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Reverend Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

### OUR STAFF

Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts • Jim Riehl, Business Administrator

Leah Saulsberry, Sunday School Director • Wendy Starr, Office Manager

Emily Johnson, Communications Assistant • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers

Terence D. Flanagan, Sunday Audio Technician

**SIGN UP** to Read, Usher or Greet <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

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