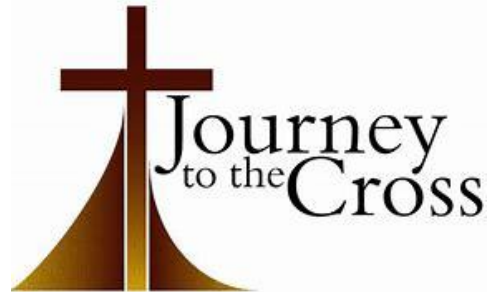


North Presbyterian Church

Good Friday
April 3, 2026
12:00 p.m.



Prelude

Arioso
Leslie Bahler, Viola

Bach

Call to Worship

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

Who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Hymn 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

Communion

Jesus came into the world, not to judge it, but to save it.

We are so grateful for God's infinite love, and we celebrate, with all of creation, the saving work of our Suffering Savior.

On the night before he was nailed to the merciless cross, Jesus shared his last meal with his friends. He took the bread, he gave thanks, and he broke it. And he gave it to them saying,

This is my body, which is broken for you. Eat it and remember me.

Then he took the wine and gave thanks. And he passed it among them, saying,

This is my blood, which is shed for you. Drink it and remember me.

And so we take, we eat and drink, and we remember: There is no greater love than this sacrifice which you, Jesus, made for us;

When we come to this meal, O Lord, we are reminded that it is the death and darkness in us that drove you to the cross. And so we come with no pride, no sense of entitlement; we come humbly and with deep gratitude. For it is you alone that has made a place for us at your table. Amen.

As you awaken us to your presence by your Spirit, may we know this bread and wine to be your body and blood. As you embrace us now by your Spirit may we be changed, so that together we become the embodiment of your love, of your life, to the world. Amen.

(The bread for communion is gluten-free. Please come up the center aisle to receive the bread and take a cup of juice from the tray as we sing "Jesus, Remember Me You are invited to carry the elements back to your seat so we can all eat and drink together.)

Hymn 227

Jesus Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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Reading

"It Was on the Friday"

from *Stages on the Way*

Anthem

O Lamb of God Most Holy

Sandra Gay

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Scripture Reading

Mark 15:16-24

Simon of Cyrene's Story

Follow the Way (see Insert)

Scripture Reading

John 19:25-27

Mary's Story

Follow the Way (see Insert)

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:39-43

The Dying Thief's Story

Follow the Way (see Insert)

Scripture Reading

Mark 15:33-37

Meditation

Sarabande in D Minor
Leslie Bahler, Viola

Bach

THE RESPONSE

A Time of Confession

It seems impossible that anyone would give what you did to save men and women like us;

But you gave yourself freely for our sakes.

It seems unimaginable that anyone could love the way you did—including outcasts, rebels, and even your persecutors—and refuse to strike back;

But you loved so much that you laid down your life for our sakes.

It seems inconceivable that anyone would offer the forgiveness that you did even as nails pierced your flesh, and the cross was stained with your blood;

But you did not hold our sin against us, and took our suffering on yourself.

Forgive us that we have allowed greed and violence, pride and deceit, bitterness and coldness, to have a place in our hearts;

And fill us again with your immeasurable grace, your inexhaustible love, and your unconquerable life, that we may be changed and may express our love and devotion through lives of worship. Amen.

Silent Confession

Hymn

We Will Lay Our Burden Down

As the hymn is sung, you are invited to approach the chancel and lay your stone at the foot of the cross. You may return to your seat for the conclusion of the service.

We will lay our burden down, we will lay our burden down.
We will lay our burden down in the hands of the Son of God.

We Will Lay Our Burden Down comes from *Stages on the Way*, Iona Community, Wild Goose Worship Group, GIA Publications, 2000. All rights reserved. All music in this publication reprinted under One License.net A-700789.

Benediction

The congregation will be led out in silence following the benediction.

10 *Follow the Way*

Unison

Fol-low the Way, the way of the Cross, go where the foot-steps
lead, fol-low the way of sor-row and loss,
love is its crime and creed. Last time
creed.

The musical score is written for unison in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music. The first system covers the first line of lyrics. The second system covers the second line of lyrics and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line. The third system covers the third line of lyrics and includes a 'Last time' section with a repeat sign and a final cadence. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray
MUSIC: Jenny McLeod

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PILGRIM

Worship Leaders

Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing
Rev. Bill Hennessy

Amherst Presbyterian Church
Clarence Presbyterian Church
North Presbyterian Church

Music

Donna Lorenzo, Choir Director
Koto Shimojo, Choir Director
Marlene Harrington, Choir Director

Amherst Presbyterian Church
Clarence Presbyterian Church
North Presbyterian Church

Celebrate Easter at North

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
Memorial Garden

10:15 a.m. He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

A celebration with Holy Communion
Music provided by the Lancaster Brass Quintet and the
North Presbyterian Church Adult Choir



Hymns

Hymn 209 My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know. But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing, resounding all the day hosannas to our King. Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.

Unheeding we will have our dear Lord made away, a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay. Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine: never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

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Scripture Readings

Mark 15:16-24

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

John 19:25-27

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Mark 15:33-37

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION

Pastor/Head of Staff: The Rev. William T. Hennessy
Administrative Assistant: Reyne Jankowski
Facilities Caretaker: Mack Bigler
Director of Music, Organist: Marlene Harrington
Bookkeeper: Carol Lynn Saxer
Childcare Supervisor: Regina Koteras
Coordinator of Sacred Arts: Olivia Ebsary
Director of Music, Children & Youth: Alanna Carlins
Musical Assistant: Kurt Ebsary



Our Church Officers

Clerk of Session: Mitch Roemer
Treasurer: Brad Hahn
Assistant Treasurer: Mary Beth Karr

Class of 2026

Joe Alber
Lois Anneler
Louise Cooper
Warren Marcus

Class of 2027

Harvey Blakely
Olivia Ebsary
Debbie Katz
Ryan Koteras

Class of 2028

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Randy Bigler
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Board of Deacons

Moderator: Jim Loree

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Jim Loree
Faye Wohlhueter
Marty Shafer

Class of 2027

Marge Blakely
Duncan Hemink
Lynda Roemer
Mary Atwood

Class of 2028

Fred Hacker
Nancy Kim
Patti Thayer
Pam Ostermeier

Session Committees

| <u>Committee</u> | <u>Contact Person</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Adult Education & Faith Formation | Debbie Katz |
| Advocacy and Outreach | Mary Lou George |
| Children's Christian Education | Debbie Hutton |
| Membership | Jim Atwood |
| Finance | Jim Atwood |
| Human Resources | Joe Alber |
| Property | Randy Bigler |
| Stewardship | Debbie Katz |
| Worship | Olivia Ebsary, Jeff Faunce, Sue D'Angelo |

MISSION STATEMENT

Brought together by our shared faith in Jesus Christ,
Called by God to live as faithful disciples,
Blessed by our diverse gifts and experiences,
We commit ourselves to:
Worship together,
Teach and learn from one another,
Nurture each other with care and love, and
Reach out in ministry and mission to the world.
(Adopted by the Session June 5, 2006)

LET'S CONNECT

Website: <https://northchurchwilliamsville.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northchurchwilliamsville/>

Phone: 716-632-1330

Email: n.church.npc@gmail.com

Thursday e-blast and special announcements:

Please make sure the church office has your current email address if you wish to receive email.

