

# Tenebrae

A SHARED SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
THE GARDEN CHURCH | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**THE GARDEN**  
MANY PATHS. ONE PURPOSE.

Thursday April 2, 2026

7:00 PM

Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *What Wondrous Love is This* 19<sup>th</sup> Century Hymn

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan-Holmes  
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Sarah: God is light, whose love cast out all shadows.

**All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Pastor Carolyn: And this is the good news, that the light has come into the world.

**All: Tonight we witness the suffering of the shadows of the world as we await the return of the light.**

ALL SINGING: *Ah, Holy Jesus (verses 1 & 2)*  
New Century Hymnal #218

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Rev. Worth Hartman

ALL SINGING: *Ah, Holy Jesus (verses 3 & 4)*  
New Century Hymnal #218

SECOND READING: Psalm 22 Ann Leatherman

THIRD READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Maddy Baldwin

ALL SINGING: *My Song Is Love Unknown (verses 1 & 4)*  
New Century Hymnal #222

A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Ever-present God, on this night and tomorrow on Good Friday, our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of Jesus' death. We confess that we want to push the fast-forward button on this familiar story because it hurts so much. It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath. It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world.

But we must find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there: the pain of the world, of faithless decisions; of betrayal; of injustice. Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness to you and to us to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness, and Love.

We confess, we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus. Strengthen us with your courage; offer glimpses of hope in the shadows of death; let us know you are present with us here in this moment of pain; now, as always.

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING      Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan-Holmes

Beloved followers of Jesus, it is okay to feel hurt and uncomfortable as you enter into this story and imagine your place in it. Know that God meets you in the story, with comfort as well as challenge; with courage as well as love.

FIFTH READING: John 18:28-19:16a

Hugh Weatherly

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Ever Present God, we are amazed that Jesus, nearing his death, reached out to comfort and empower those dearest to him. At the foot of his cross, he called his mother and his beloved disciples into a new community. Give us the grace and

courage to join them there, welcoming all who struggle and grieve into this new covenant of love and grace.

For whom shall we pray, in our world, our community, our family, under the shadow of the cross? I invite you to offer silent prayers at this time.

God of unending grace and mercy, we ask that you hear our prayers, as we say together the prayer that Jesus taught us...

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

SIXTH READING: John 19: 16b-30

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan-Holmes

ALL SINGING: *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (verses 1 & 3)

New Century Hymnal #226

SEVENTH READING: John 19: 31-42

Scott Semester

BENEDICTION

CLOSING REFLECTION: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Stephanie Brown, Soloist

*Join us to Celebrate Easter*

7171 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240 | Parking in the back

*Sunday, April 5*

<p><i>The Garden</i> 9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p> THE GARDEN MANY PATHS. ONE PURPOSE.</p>	<p><i>First Congregational</i> 11:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p> FCINDY.ORG  </p>
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