



HOLY THURSDAY  
2026

# PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3180 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia

Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

## EVENING WORSHIP

7:00 PM

HOLY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 2, 2026

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altars

### THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Herelich tut mich verlangen*..... Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

### AT THE INTROIT, MOTET

*Ubi caritas* .....Maurice Duruflé  
(1902-1986)

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.

### \*AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 626:

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* .....Picardy

*Unison*

1. Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and  
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, as of old on  
3. Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard  
4. At his feet the six-winged ser-aph, cher-u-bim, with

trem-bling stand; pon-der nothing earth-ly - mind-ed,  
earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture,  
on the way, as the Light of light de-scend-eth  
sleep-less eye, veil their fac-es to the pres-ence,

for with bless-ing in his hand, Christ our God to  
in the bod-y and the blood; he will give to  
from the realms of end-less day, that the powers of  
as with cease-less voice they cry: Al-le-lu-ia,

earth de-scend - eth, our full hom-age to de-mand.  
all the faith - ful his own self for heaven-ly food.  
hell may van - ish as the dark-ness clears a-way.  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!

\*THE INVOCATION

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 13:1-17  
† following the reading  
Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God!**

THE HOMILY

*The Lenten Journey: Last Things at a Last Supper*

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

THE PRAYER OF GENERAL CONFESSION

Minister and People:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER FOR PARDON

Minister: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

Minister and People: **Glory to God. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Were you there* ..... Spiritual  
arr. Bob Chilcott  
(b. 1955)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

\*AT THE PRESENTATION, HYMN 95:

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* ..... Tune: *Old Hundredth*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You spared your people with the blood of lambs smeared on their doorposts. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\*THE SANCTUS..... Plainsong, *Missa pro defunctis*

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

† *Sung by the gentlemen of the choir.*

† *The people are seated.*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He is our Passover Lamb. He was betrayed and handed over to the authorities. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Minister and People:

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table, but you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this Sacrament of your Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE AGNUS DEI..... Plainsong, *Missa pro defunctis*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:  
miserere nobis.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:  
miserere nobis.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:  
dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.

*† Sung by the gentlemen of the choir.*

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

CHOIR MOTET:

*O vos omnes* ..... T. L. de Victoria  
(1548-1611)

*O vos omnes qui transitis per viam,  
attendite et videte:*

O all ye that pass by the way,  
attend and see:

*Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.*

If there be any sorrow like to my sorrow.

*Attendite, universi populi, et videte dolorem meum.*

Attend, all ye people, and see my sorrow:

*Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.*

If there be any sorrow like to my sorrow.

*Lamentations 1:12*

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTARS

ANTHEM: *Crucifixus* ..... Antonio Lotti  
(1667-1740)

*Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato:  
Passus, et sepultus est.*

He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate:  
He suffered and was buried.

The Chamber Singers

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 17:1-5

*† following the reading*

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN 290:

Go To Dark Gethsemane ..... Redhead

† During the singing of this hymn, the altar is prepared for Good Friday. Following the fourth stanza, the congregation is asked to be in an attitude of prayer as the choir repeats the first stanza.

1. Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, ye that feel the  
2. See him at the judg - ment hall, beat - en, bound, re -  
3. Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing  
4. Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his

temp - ter's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
viled, ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!  
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his  
O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,  
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He

griefs a - way; learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.  
shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.  
hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.  
meets our eyes; Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

James Montgomery, 1820

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
and are so far from my cry  
and from the words of my distress.

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;  
by night as well, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are the Holy One,  
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>Our forefathers put their trust in you;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>But as for me, I am a worm and no man,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh me to scorn.  
they curl their lips and wag their heads saying,

<sup>8</sup>“He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,  
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.

<sup>10</sup>I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.

<sup>12</sup>Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

<sup>13</sup>They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water;  
all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

<sup>15</sup>My mouth is dried out like a potsherd;  
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

<sup>16</sup>Packs of dogs close me in,  
and gangs of evildoers circle around me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet;  
I can count all my bones.

<sup>17</sup>They stare and gloat over me;  
They divide my garments among them;  
they cast lots for my clothing.

<sup>18</sup>Be not far away, O Lord;  
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

*† During the singing of Psalm 22, the ceremonial chalice and paten are carried to the Moore Chapel,  
where all are invited to follow the choir, to pray, and keep watch with our Lord.*

\*Those who are able, please stand.

The Ordinary of the Mass is the *Missa pro defunctis*, sung by the Gentlemen of the choir.

At the close of the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we will extinguish lights, symbolizing the crowds “who from that time went back and walked no more with Him.” As the shadows deepen, we follow the disciples as they, too, retire into shadows of darkness and leave him, even the three on whom he depended most.

The final part of this service includes the stripping of the altars. First, the elements of Holy Communion are removed from the altar as Jesus’ death nears us. This is followed by the extinguishing of any remaining candles and removal of all symbols of our faith. The service concludes with the church in total darkness as the crucifixion becomes a reality.

### WORSHIP LEADERS IN TONIGHT’S SERVICE

#### HOMILY

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

#### LITURGISTS

Rev. Josh Miles, *Associate Minister*  
Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, *Associate Minister*  
Rev. Geoff Beakley, *Associate Minister*

#### VERGER

Mark Brown

#### MUSIC

Scott Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*  
Oak Martin, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*  
The Chancel Choir  
The Chamber Singers

Good Friday Community Service  
Friday, April 3, 12:00 pm  
Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church  
2715 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, 30305

On this solemn day, our community will recall the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary.

Easter Day Sunrise Service  
6:30 am, Columbarium  
+ Kindling of the New Fire  
+ Lighting of the Paschal Candle  
+ First Service of the Resurrection

You are invited to begin Easter with the historic tradition of the Great Vigil. Just as the first believers did, we will gather outside as dawn begins to break. As light fills the world, we will recognize Jesus' victory over death! We will then process to the chapel for the first service of Easter.

Easter Day Festival Worship  
8:15, 9:45, & 11:15 am, Sanctuary

Join us for a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and the hope of everlasting life! Festival worship will feature glorious music and an inspiring message. Rev. Bill Britt preaching. Music by The PRUMC Chancel Choir, Atlanta Brassworks, and the Peachtree Carillon. The events of Easter are the core of our faith and we invite you to rejoice with your church family!



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