



Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 7pm



The First Church in Albany (RCA)

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls

From Laughter to the Darkest Depths

April 2, 2026

Prelude

“I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Arr. Ferruccio Busoni (1866-1924)

Call to Worship

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Leader: I love the LORD, because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

People: Because the LORD inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Leader: What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

Leader: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

People: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

Leader: in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Sacrament of the Holy Supper

Scripture Reading

John 13

Meaning of the Sacrament

Invitation

Special Music

“Come to the Table”

Sidewalk Prophets

Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion Through Intinction

You are invited to come forward, tare a piece of bread from the loaf, and dip it into the cup.

Scripture Reading John 18:1-12

Hymn “What Wondrous Love Is This?” #215 WONDROUS LOVE
See p. 5

Meditation “Whom are you looking for?”

Scripture Reading John 18:13-24

Special Music “Least of These” Matt Maher

Scripture Reading John 18:25-27

Solo “Peter’s Denial” Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)
Susan Hermance Fedak, contralto

Here is what Peter would not tell those around him:

*“I was with Jesus, the one being tried;
Jesus, the one who has angered the rulers;
Jesus, about whom so many have lied.”*

*“I am among those who follow this Jesus;
Jesus, who faces accusers alone;
Jesus who says, ‘You will see clouds of glory.’
Jesus, who speaks of a Son on a throne.”*

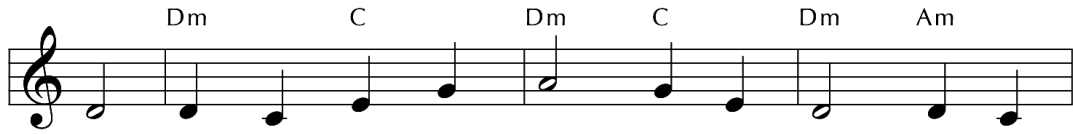
*“Yes, I know Jesus, whom Pilate will sentence;
Jesus, whose death will be that of a slave;
Jesus, rejected by temple and empire;
Jesus, who goes to a cross and a grave.”*

Tell the world round us what Peter would not tell:

*“Yes, I know Jesus, through conflict and cost.”
For it is yes to the joy that will follow;
Joy that finds Peter! not leaving him lost.*

Richard Leach, 2001

What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you
 4 Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine? (Were you
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you

there?) Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 there?) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 there?) Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 there?) Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine?
 there?) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O! Some-times it caus - es me to

trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you
there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you
there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you
there when the sun re - fused to shine? (Were you
there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you

Opt. 6 Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

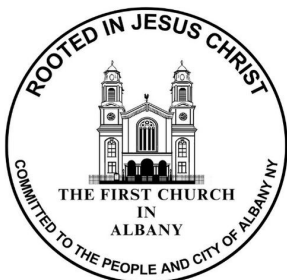
Few hymns from any culture have captured the pathos of Jesus' crucifixion as movingly as this African American spiritual. Its emotional climax (and highest pitch) comes in the great "O!" at the center of each stanza, a moment that moves beyond anything words can convey.





HOLY WEEK 2026

- Holy Thursday - April 2, 7pm
 - in the Chapel
- Good Friday - April 3, noon at Mater Christi Roman Catholic Church
- Holy Saturday - April 4
 - Keys for Kids Recital 2 pm
 - Zimmerman Hall
- Easter Sunrise Service - April 5, 6:30am
 - West Capital Park
- **Easter Sunday - April 5**
 - Arrive by 9:40 to enjoy a special prelude musical offering with The Catskill Brass Quintet before worship
 - FCIA Sanctuary 10am
 - Followed by Coffee & the Easter Egg Maze in Zimmerman Hall



The First Church in Albany

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