

Celebration of Tenebrae, Friday, April 3, 2026

Alexander Chapel United Methodist Church (UMC), Christ UMC, Clark's Chapel UMC, and Salem UMC welcome you to this collaborative celebration of Tenebrae. Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," is a solemn service observed during Holy Week that reflects on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Through song, scripture readings, and the gradual extinguishing of candles, the service moves us from light into darkness, symbolizing the events leading to the cross. Tenebrae service invites us into quiet reflection and remembrance, preparing our hearts to more fully experience the hope and joy of Easter.

Prelude, Steve Hawkins

Invocation & Greeting, Phillip Gibson, Pastor of Alexander Chapel United Methodist Church

Prayer in Unison, Sheri King

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that He might draw the whole world to Himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Story of the Passion of Christ

Song - Cross Medley, sung by the Weaverville Community Choir

Reading 1 – Phillip Gibson

Reading 2 – Ray Kiess

Reading 3 – Mike Holder

Reading 4 – Pam Williams

Song - Who Am I?, sung by the Weaverville Community Choir, Kay Holder, soloist

Reading 5 – Sheri King

Reading 6 – Cindy Lunsford

Reading 7 – Mike Holder

Reading 8 – Ray Kiess

Song - O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done, sung by the Weaverville Community Choir

Reading 9 – Warren Lunsford

Reading 10 – Pam Williams

Reading 11 – Mike Holder

Reading 12 – Ray Kiess

Song - 'Tis Finished! The Messiah Dies, sung by the Weaverville Community Choir

Reading 13 – Sheri King

Reading 14 – Ray Kiess

Reading 15 – Mike Holder

Reading 16 – Phillip Gibson

Benediction, Phillip Gibson

The sanctuary lights will remain off. Please depart in silence. The room will remain darkened except for the lights at the entrance.

Appreciation to:

Pianist and Choir Director: Steve Hawkins

Soundboard and Lighting: Phillip Hawkins

The Weaverville Community Choir: Judy Buchanan, Jane Criser, Terry Criser, Elizabeth Hawkins, Steve Hawkins, Kay Holder, Laura Lever, Cindy Lunsford, Rick Scarboro, Terrie Scarboro, Marcia Smith, Pam Williams

Readers: Ray Kiess (retired UMC clergy), Mike Holder (clergy for Christ UMC), Cindy Lunsford (clergy for Salem UMC), Warren Lunsford (clergy for Clark's Chapel UMC), Sheri King & Pam Williams (Alexander Chapel)

