

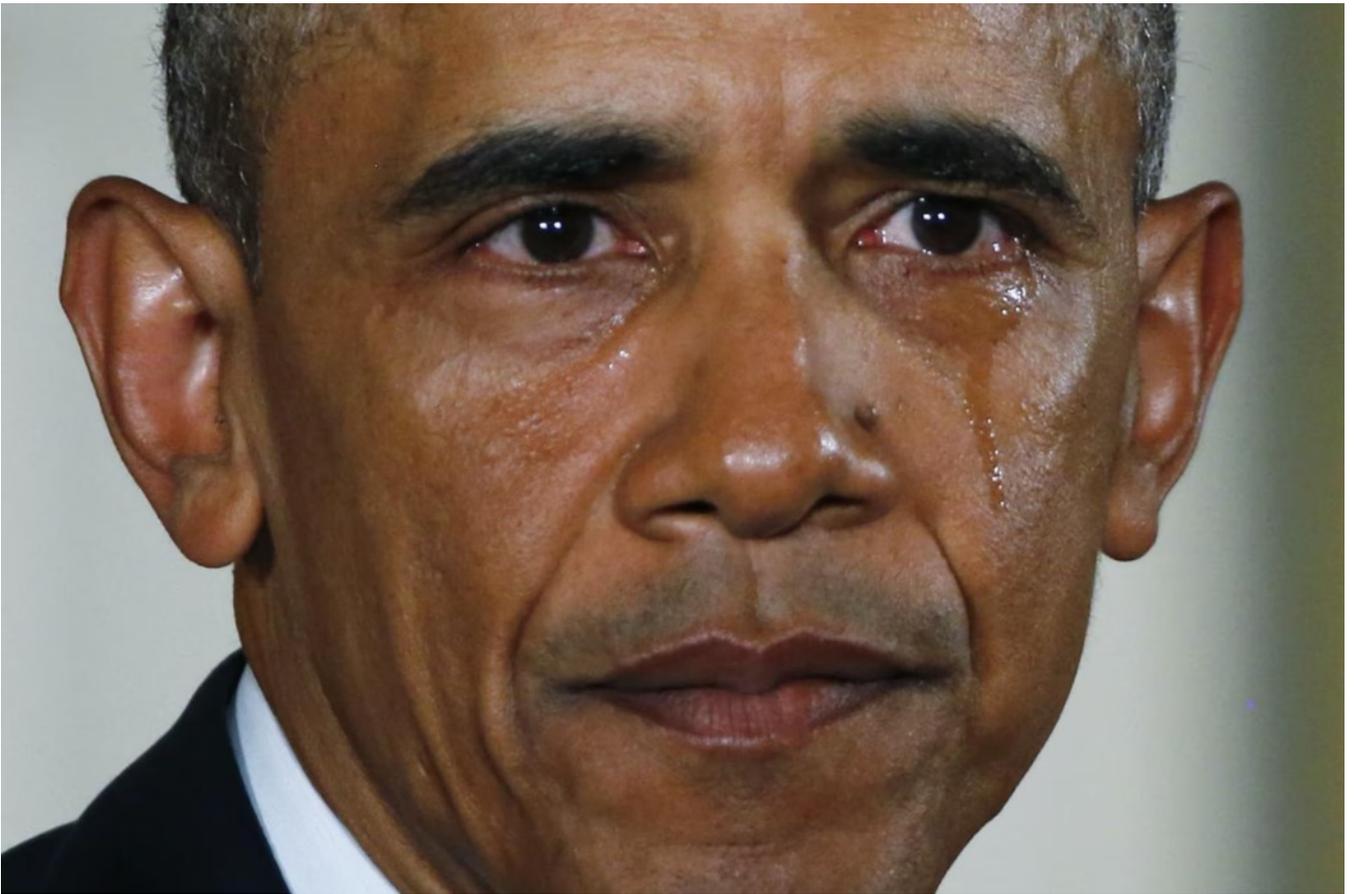


KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

2 April 2026



The Night of Tears

An evening service on Maundy Thursday

The Gathering

A Word from the Artist

Pete Majendie reads "The Front Door", from his book, A Deaf in the Family
He reflects on the photo of Barrack Obama's tears

Scripture Sentence:

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Psalm 80: 4-5, 7

Opening Prayer:

Guide us gently, O God,
THROUGH THE NIGHT OF TEARS.

Keep us close to your heart.
SHELTER US IN YOUR CARING.

And when we fear that we may have failed,
SPEAK TO US WITH A TENDER, FORGIVING WORD -

that henceforth we may love and serve you
MORE CLEARLY, DEARLY AND NEARLY,

for we pray this through the mercy of Jesus.
AMEN.

Hymn:

Song 47

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)



1. Drop, drop, slow tears
and bathe those beauteous feet
which brought from Heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.
2. Cease not, wet eyes
his mercies to entreat
to cry for vengeance,
sin doth never cease.

3. In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears,
nor let His eye
see sin, but through my tears.

Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

The Gospel Lesson: John 11: 28-37

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection

Generally, sermons are posted on our website's sermon page shortly after the service. Hard copies of the sermons are available before and after the service – ask the person at the door. A video version of this sermon is available from 7:00pm tonight: https://youtu.be/MQHbD_G8D5c

Hymn:

God weeps

Jim Strathdee (b. 1941)



1. God weeps
at love withheld,
at strength misused,
at children's innocence abused,
and till we change the way we love,
God weeps.
2. God bleeds
at anger's fist,
at trust betrayed,
at women battered and afraid,
and till we change the way we win,
God bleeds.
3. God cries
at hungry mouths,
at running sores,
at creatures dying without cause,
and till we change the way we care,
God cries.

4. God waits
for stones to melt,
for peace to seed,
for hearts to hold each other's need,
and till we understand the Christ,
God waits.

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

A Prayer for the Tears of the World:

. . . **OUR FATHER 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 FOR EVER. AMEN.**

Music for Reflection: Miserere
William Byrd (1540-1623)

The Institution, and Setting Apart of the Elements

The Great Eucharistic Prayer:

May God be with you.
AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.
WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.
IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right indeed . . .

The Breaking of the Bread

The Distribution

Please come forward to receive some bread, dip it in the grape juice, and, once you have finished, return to your seat.

Seated, we sing

Hymn:

Eventide

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have not weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

After a minute's silence, the minister leaves the chapel.

*Please leave when you are ready,
respecting the silence for others who still remain.*



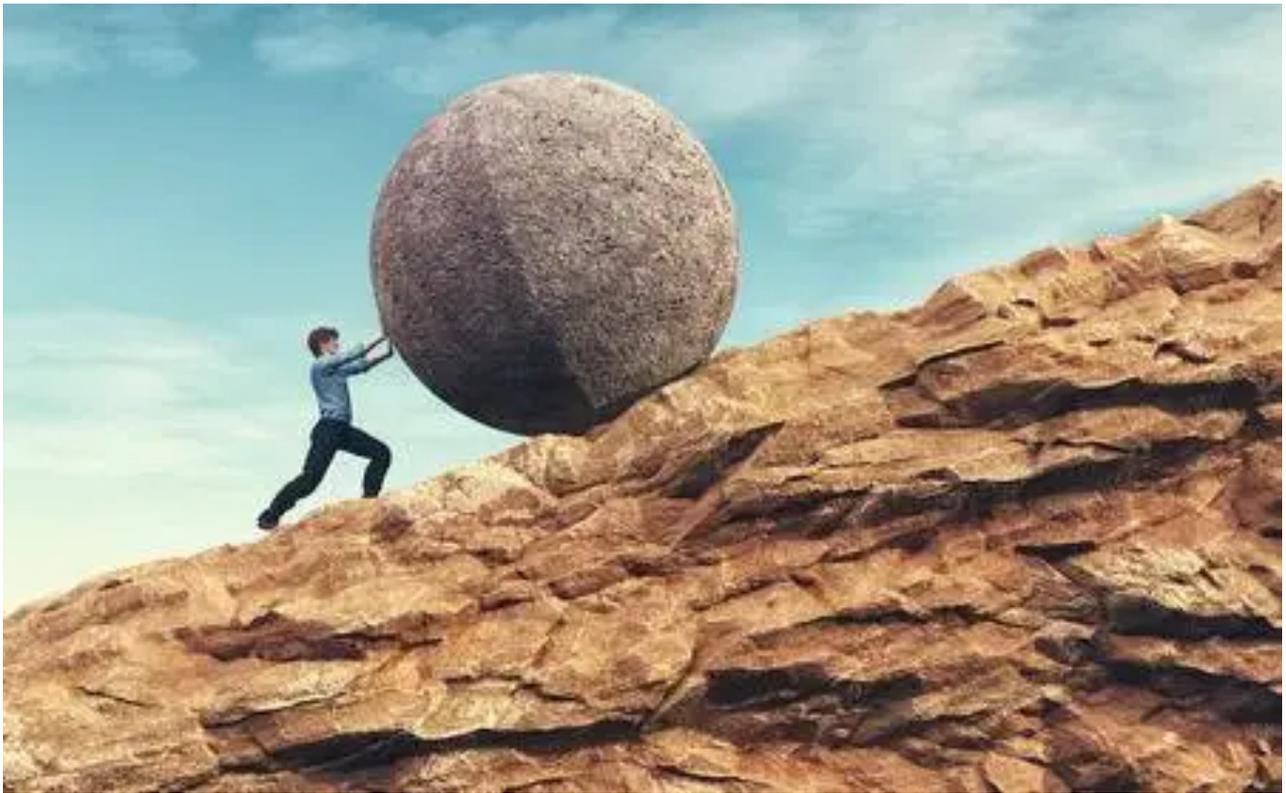
Roll the stone across the door

A solemn service for Good Friday

10:00am, 3 April, in the church

This year at Knox, we have spent Lent exploring the theme of stones placed in the way of Jesus. The stone has been the metaphor for the obstruction and violence directed against Jesus throughout his ministry. Stones were used to stone people to death - something which Jesus famously defused. Jesus used the tombstone to describe the hearts of those who resisted God. Jesus spoke about those who hurt God's people as those who had huge stones around their necks as they sank in the sea. Today, as Jesus dies, a great, immovable stone is rolled across the door of his tomb. The stone signals the end.

We welcome and thank our choral quartet, Nicola Holt, Jessica Adams, Andrew Milner-White and Chris Adams.



THE POWER THAT ROLLED THE STONE AWAY

A COMMUNION SERVICE FOR EASTER DAY
10:00am, in the church, Sunday 5 April

*On the third day, I can't tell you that we're in a hugely different place. He's gone, and that cold fact hasn't. But the third day **does** allow us to attend to what we needed to defer - we turn back to finishing the job of burial. So, back to the tomb we go. Mary and I had seen the size of the stone rolled across the tomb - and we know that no amount of feminine determination is going to get us past it. Maybe the guards will help. They hadn't helped so far; they were only there to obstruct and kill rumours. But maybe some element of decency was within them - so that we could "move" **them** to "move" the stone. Anyway, we approach the tomb of Jesus, wondering what we will do.*

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Keeping in Touch

Would you like to give our office your contact details so that we can send you our quarterly magazine and other Knox communications?

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