



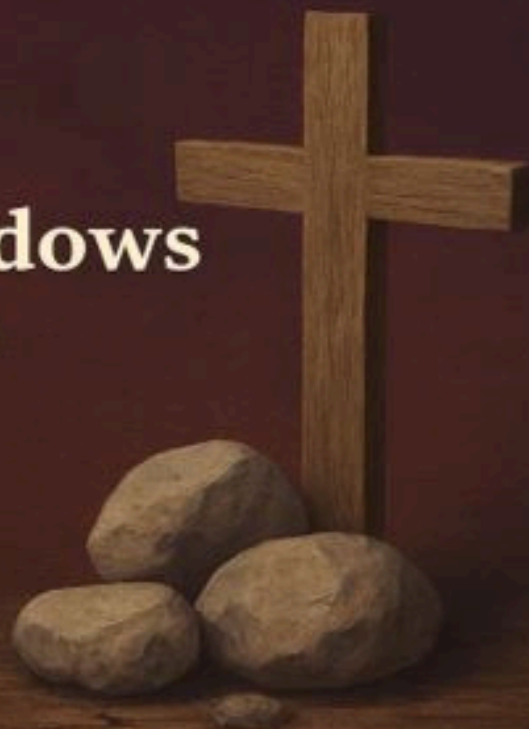
FRANCONIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6037 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310

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Service of Shadows and Stones



Good Friday Service
Service of Shadows and Stones
April 3, 2026 at 7:30 pm

Service of Shadows and Stones
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 2, 2026

Prelude *God so Loved the World* June Shuffett

Welcome Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: All you who pass this way

People: look and see the shadow of sin, look, see the weight of the world.

Pastor: All you who pass this way

People: look and see the suffering of our Savior.

Pastor: All you who pass this way, look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.

People: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

*Hymn *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* UMH 297

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: As darkness deepens and the story unfolds,
open our hearts to the mystery of Your love—
a love that does not turn away from suffering,
a love that meets us in our fear,
a love that holds us even in death.
Draw near to us in this solemn hour.
Let the weight of these stones,
the dimming of the candles,
and the words of scripture
lead us deeper into the truth of Your sacrifice.
Hold us in the stillness,
steady us in the shadows,
and prepare us to walk with Christ
through the sorrow and the silence of this night. AMEN.

Special Music *Calvary's Lamb* Chancel Choir

The Service of Shadows and Stones

The Stone of Condemnation

Reading Luke 23:32-34 Bruce Bartolain

Extinguish First Candle

Unison Prayer

Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, draw near to us in the darkness. Soften our hearts with Your mercy, and shape us into people who both receive forgiveness and offer it. AMEN.

Hymn *Ah, Holy Jesus* vs.1 & 2 UMH #289

The Stone of Separation

Reading

Luke 23:35-43

Kathy Henry

Extinguish Second Candle

Unison Prayer

Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, by a world that is not at peace and a people who are not whole. Even as others mocked You, You turned with compassion toward the one beside You and welcomed him into God's embrace. When we feel distant from one another or far from Your love, draw near to us in the darkness. Heal what is divided, mend what is broken, and bring Your grace and peace to every place of separation. AMEN.

Hymn

Jesus Remember Me (sung 3 times)

UMH 488

The Stone of Sorrow

Reading

John 19:25-27

Pat Hobbs

Extinguish Third Candle

Unison Prayer

Loving Jesus, You saw the sorrow of those who stood at Your cross, and You cared for them even in Your own suffering. We, too, carry the weight of those we love. We see their pain, their fears, and their burdens. Our concern for them runs deep, and so often we feel helpless to ease their hurt. Come alongside us in the darkness, and hold the ones we love in Your strong and tender hands. AMEN.

Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross vs. 1-2

UMH 301

The Stone of Despair

Scripture

Mark 15:33-34

Bruce Bartolain

Extinguish Fourth Candle

Unison Prayer

Lord Jesus, in the deep darkness of the cross, You cried out in anguish, feeling the weight of God's distance and the ache of feeling forsaken. You know the depths of our despair and the silence that can surround our prayers. Come alongside us in the darkness, meet us in our fear and loneliness, and help us trust that even when we cannot feel God's presence, we are never beyond Your reach. AMEN.

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded vs. 1-2

UMH 286

The Stone of Suffering

Reading

John 19:28-29

Kathy Henry

Extinguish Fifth Candle

Unison Prayer

Suffering Savior, in Your thirst You revealed the depth of Your humanity and the weight of all You bore. You know what it is to ache, to long, to be in need. When our bodies fail, when our spirits are weary, when pain feels unending, draw near to us in the darkness. Walk with us through every trial, and let Your compassion be our strength. AMEN.

Hymn

Alas And Did My Savior Bleed vs 1 & 2

UMH 359

The Stone of Surrender

Reading

Luke 23:46a

Pat Hobbs

Extinguish Sixth Candle

Unison Prayer

Faithful Christ, in Your final breath You entrusted everything to the Father's care. Where we cling in fear, teach us to release. Where we grasp for control, teach us to trust. Where we hold tightly to what is already finished, open our hands and our hearts to Your mercy. Come alongside us in the darkness and help us surrender our lives into God's keeping, just as You surrendered Yours. AMEN.

Hymn

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross Vs. 1 & 3

UMH 298

The Stone of Death

Reading

Mark 15: 37-39

Bruce Bartolain

Extinguish Christ Candle

Strepitus

Unison Prayer

Dearest Jesus, in Your final cry and final breath, the world shifted and the veil was torn. Even in death, You revealed the truth of who You are. When we face loss, when fear surrounds us, when we come to the edges of our own mortality, draw near to us in the darkness. Hold us in the mystery of Your love, and carry us through death into the promise of life. AMEN.

Hymn

Were You There

UMH 288

The Lord's Prayer (Whispered)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

Depart In Silence

As you entered you were handed a stone. Remember now the stone that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb, signifying the finality of His death. Following the Lord's Prayer please leave the sanctuary in reverent silence and place your stone beside the extinguished Christ Candle. To all who watched, it looked like the end of Jesus' story. But we know the truth: the darkness of the tomb is not the final word. The promise of Easter is already stirring. May you rest in that hope this night.