



## Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service



200 W. Grand River Ave  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
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[ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com)

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | APRIL 14, 2021

*The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been celebrated by the church since medieval times. Once a service for monastic communities, Tenebrae later became an important part of Holy Week. Tenebrae features readings from scripture that retell the story of Christ’s passion, followed by the extinguishing of candles. As the sanctuary descends into darkness, we remember the depth of Christ’s suffering and death. At the end of the service, the darkness is pierced by the relighting of the Christ candle, which anticipates the joy of the coming resurrection.*

### **Prelude**

Ah, Holy Jesus

Helmut Walcha

### **Call to Worship**

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

One Beloved, tonight we gather in the shadow of the cross.  
We listen, we remember, we mourn.  
Can we bear to recall the story of this night?

**All By the grace of God, we can.**

One We remember the meal shared with the disciples.  
We remember the new covenant of broken bread and sacred cup.  
We remember his prayer, his tears, his betrayal.  
Can we bear to hear this story of sorrow?

**All By the grace of God, we can.**

One There is betrayal. There is denial. There is despair.  
For the sake of love, the Lamb of God will suffer and die.  
Can you bear to remember all the events of this night?

**All By the grace of God, we can.**

One Then let us praise God, even as the shadows close in.

**All We will watch and wait and praise God for the love that is shown this night.**

## Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This (v. 1-3)

no. 215

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

What Wondrous Love is This  
Text: American folk hymn (1811)  
Music: Walker's Southern Harmony (1965)  
Copyright: 2013  
CLI#: 1698862

## **Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### **Communion**

*Words of Institution and Sharing of Elements*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***We thank you, holy God, for giving us this sacred meal, for giving us your presence and your life, and for reminding us of your everlasting grace. Amen.***

## **Anthem**

Jesus Died on Calvary's Mountain  
Sanctuary Choir, Directed by Jonathan Reed  
Nick Kreider, Baritone

arr. K. Lee Scott

*Jesus died on Calvary's mountain, long time ago, and salvation's rolling fountain now freely flows. Once his voice in tones of pity melted in woe, and he wept o'er Judah's city long time ago. On his head the dews of midnight fell, long ago; Now a crown of dazzling sunlight sits on his brow. Jesus died, yet lives forever, no more to die. Bleeding Jesus, bleeding Savior, now reigns on high. Children, let your lights be burning in hope of heav'n, waiting for the Lord's returning at dawn or ev'n. When he comes, a voice from heaven shall pierce the tomb. "Come, ye blessed of my Father: children, come home, children, come home."*

## **Meditation**

<b>First Reading</b>	Shadow of Betrayal	Matthew 26:20-25
<b>Second Reading</b>	Shadow of Desertion	Matthew 26: 31-35

**Anthem**                      Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?                      arr. Dwight Gustafson  
*Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I? Was it for crimes that I have done, He groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!*

<b>Third Reading</b>	Agony of the Soul	Luke 22:39-44
<b>Fourth Reading</b>	Unshared Vigil	Mark 14:32-41

**Hymn**                                      Go to Dark Gethsemane (v. 1-2)                                      no. 220  
*Go to dark Gethsemane; all who feel the tempter's power; your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

*Follow to the judgement hall; view the Lord of life arraigned; O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.*

Go to Dark Gethsemane  
Text: James Montgomery (1820)  
Music: Richard Redhead (1853)  
Copyright: 2013  
CLI#: 1698862

<b>Fifth Reading</b>	Father, the Hour is Come	John 17:1-6
<b>Sixth Reading</b>	That They May All Be One	John 17:15-22

**Hymn**                                      O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 1 & 3)                                      no. 221  
*O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down; now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.*

*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? O make me thine for ever; and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.*

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
Text: James Waddell Alexander (1830)  
Music: Hans Leo Hassler (1601)  
Copyright: 2013  
CLI#: 1698862

***Seventh Reading***

Arrest at the Gate

John 18:1-5

***Eighth Reading***

Shadow of the Cross

Mark 15:16-20

***Solo***

Were You There

arr. Moses Hogan

Ben Clements, Bass

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified  
my Lord?*

***Extinguishing of the Christ Candle***

***Darkness and Silence***

***Final Reading***

John 1:1-5

***Departure*** *(those in the sanctuary are asked to leave in silence)*

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***Readers:*** Devon Herrell, Ren Mueller, Judy Kabodian, Elise Hitts, Dylan McCracken,  
Austin Bekkering, Rick Shafer, and Jordan Holmes.

***Join us for our Easter Services!***

*8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary (10:30 service is also available on YouTube  
Livestream).*