



maundy thursday

tenebrae service



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ThePeoplesChurch.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP | APRIL 1, 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

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. Alec Wyton

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

One: This is a night to remember.

**All: We remember the meal Jesus shared with his disciples.
The broken bread, the common cup, the one life poured out for all.**

One: We remember the night Jesus prayed alone in the garden.
The sleeping disciples, the anguished tears, the son of God forsaken and alone.

**All: We remember his arrest and trial, his suffering and his death.
The whip, the cross, the crown of thorns.
The jeering crowd, the weeping women.**

One: This is a night to remember. Let us worship our God in the shadow of the cross.

Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (verses 1 and 2)

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.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, as we remember Christ’s suffering in Gethsemane, our hearts are filled with shame. Our sins are too heavy to carry and too real to hide. 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 we have no power to change; open us to a future in which we can be changed through the gift of faith; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. It is through your Son, our suffering savior, that we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

- Anthem** "Lamb of God" Jon Washburn
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, O grant us peace.
- Meditation** "The Gathering Gloom"
- First Reading** Shadow of Betrayal Matthew 26:20-25
- Second Reading** Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:31-35
- Hymn** "Ah, Holy Jesus" (verses 1 and 2)
Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!
Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.
- Third Reading** Agony of the Soul Luke 22:39-44
- Fourth Reading** Unshared Vigil Mark 14:32-41
- Anthem** "Thou Goest to Jerusalem"
Thou goest to Jerusalem, O Son of God, to suffer, and for a world of sinful men Thy spotless life to offer; Thou bearest anguish, pain and loss, the mocker's scorn, the scourge, the cross, to win for us salvation.
Before Thee lies Gethsemane, the scene of bitter anguish; Thine eyes behold the Calvary where Thou in pain must languish; The bleeding wounds, the bitter gall, the crown of thorns, the judgement hall, Thy burdened soul's affliction.
- Fifth Reading** Father, The Hour is Come John 17:1-6
- Sixth Reading** That They May All Be One John 17:15-22
- 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!
- Seventh Reading** Arrest at the Gate John 18:1-5

Eighth Reading

Shadow of the Cross

Mark 15:16-20

Hymn

"Were You There" (verses 1 and 2)

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?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**Tolling of the Bell****Darkness and Silence****Final Reading**

John 1:1-5

Departure *(Those in the Sanctuary are asked to leave in silence)*

