

Southminster Presbyterian Church

7001 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH 45459

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Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

April 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Preparation: At home, please put out bread and a small cup of juice for your own communion, and if possible, have a candle that you can light when we light the Christ Candle in the Sanctuary.

The Service of Tenebrae is one of the oldest traditions of the Christian Church. The word “tenebrae” is a Latin word meaning “darkness” or “shadow.” As the service unfolds with seven readings, the candles are extinguished one by one until only one candle remains. At the end of the service, in observation of the approach of Good Friday, we will remove the Christ Candle.

The readings are a retelling of the story of Jesus’ journey to the Cross, based on the four Gospels.

PRELUDE

Jim Pera

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Laura Nile

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is a day to remember.

All: We remember the Passover Jesus shared with the disciples

One: and the new covenant of broken bread and cup.

All: We remember Jesus washing his disciple’s feet

One: and his commandment to love one another.

All: We remember his night alone in the garden in prayer,

One: his arrest, his trial, his suffering, and the denial of his friend.

All: We remember and thank God for Jesus’ presence with us then and with us now.

HYMN #218

“Ah, Holy Jesus” (verses 1 and 5)

Ruth Whatley

Please join us in singing verses 1 and 5 of the hymn below.

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,

that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord
 the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a -
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's o - bla - tion, thy death of
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy

rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

I. PREPARATION FOR PASSION

II.

READING

Laura Nile, Nancy Birdsong and Nate Ziepfel

ANTHEM

“What Wondrous Love is This?”

Ruth Whatley

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIRST CANDLE

II. BETRAYAL

READING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Christ Jesus, in your presence we discover who we are. You wash our feet, and we learn how reluctant we are to serve one another. Even as you prepare to give yourself for the sake of the world, we are still seeking promotions and possessions. Forgive us and bring us to your table of grace where we find healing and hope. When we are tempted to deny you, help us to follow Jesus in the path of loving service and sacrifice.

Silent Prayer of Confession... Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*One: Hear the Good News! God has come in Jesus Christ,
to fill us with hope and bathe us in grace and mercy.*

**All: In Christ, we are forgiven and invited to a new way of living.
We will do our best to bring hope where despair resides;
to be servants of those who are broken; and to love as God loves us.**

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

(Last verse of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross")

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SECOND CANDLE

III. REMEMBRANCE

READING

HYMN #503

"Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation"

verses 1 and 3

*Please join us in singing verses 1 and 3
of the hymn below.*

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

503

1 Lord, we have come at your own in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Here, at your ta - ble, con - firm our in - ten - tion;
3 When, at your ta - ble, each time of re - turn - ing,

cho - sen by you, to be count - ed your friends;
give it your seal of for - give - ness and grace;
vows are re - newed and our cour - age re - stored,

yours is the strength that sus - tains ded - i - ca - tion;
teach us to serve with - out pride or pre - ten - sion,
may we in - creas - ing - ly glo - ry in learn - ing

ours, a com - mit - ment we know nev - er ends.
Lord, in your king - dom, what - ev - er our place.
all that it means to ac - cept you as Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Tonight, we are symbolically gathering around the table
as we share the sacrament in community while still in our separate homes.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

EXTINGUISHING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

IV. PRAYER AND ANGUISH

READING

HYMN 220

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

verse 1

*Please join us in singing
the first verse of the hymn below.*

220 Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of
3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his

tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
life ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay: all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete; "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He

griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE

V. ARREST AT GETHSEMANE

READING

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221

1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIFTH CANDLE

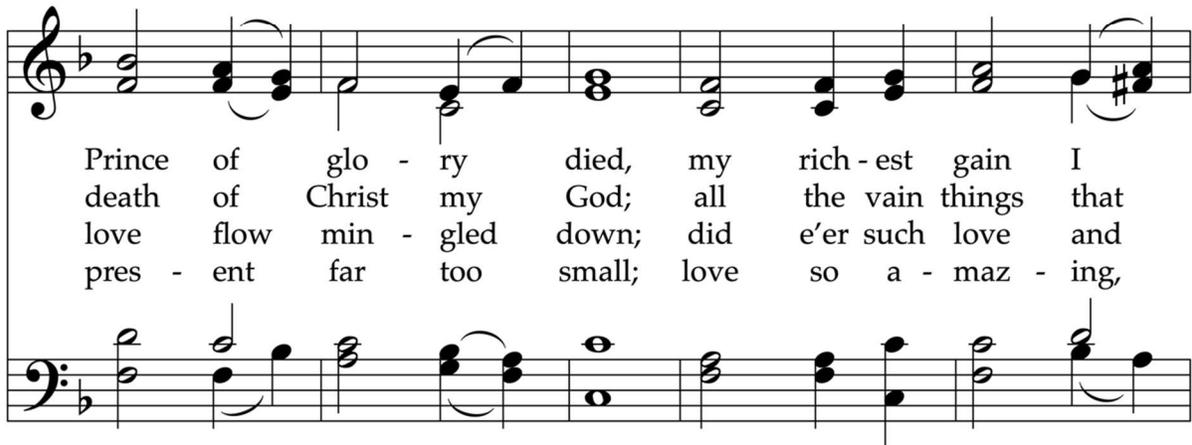
VI. ACCUSATION AND CONDEMNATION

READING

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SIXTH CANDLE

VII. DENIAL

READING

ONE CANDLE

At the end of the seventh reading, one light remains: the light of Christ which can never again be extinguished. In that light, we find forgiveness, fellowship and hope even in the darkest times.

SILENT MEDITATION

ANTHEM

“Were You There?”

Ruth Whatley

REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE and LEAVING IN SILENCE

As we move from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday, we are reminded of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross and his three days in the tomb.

At the end of tonight’s service, the Christ Candle will be removed, and the service will end in silence to remind us of the darkness ahead.

*If you lit a Christ Candle, please take it to another room,
leaving the room where you worshiped in darkness for a few moments.*