

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and pink, with wispy clouds. In the foreground, three wooden crosses of varying heights are silhouetted against the bright orange and red part of the sunset. They are positioned on a dark, silhouetted hillside.

# *Good Friday*

Tenebrae  
Service

April 10, 2020

**Centenary United Methodist Church**

2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403

Rev. Kelley Groce, Pastor   Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

## **Prelude and Silent Meditation**

This musical service is an adaptation of the ancient Tenebrae service, which dates back to the earliest years of the church. Coming from the Latin word meaning "shadows," Tenebrae depicts — through the extinguishing of candles and the dimming of lights in the sanctuary — the flight of the disciples and the approaching Crucifixion.

Jesus surrounded himself with people who, like us, had failings and shortcomings. The events of Holy Week reveal the disciples' human nature and weaknesses: Judas betrays Jesus for a pocketful of coins; the disciples sleep while Jesus agonizes in the garden; Peter's anger causes him to take up a sword and strike the high priest's slave; the chief priests act out of fear or jealousy of Jesus; Pilate's willingness to hand over a man he believes to be innocent; and perhaps most poignant of all, Jesus' own very human desire to escape the Crucifixion. And is it possible that even today, our own human nature, weaknesses, and failings cause us also to betray, deny, convict, and crucify again?

This Tenebrae service offers an opportunity for us to become more aware of our own humanity and our relationship with Christ. Allow the text and music to draw you into the action and events that led to the actual crucifixion and to relate them to the events and actions in your own life.

Invocation

Almighty God, graciously behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon a cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn                      *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*                      UMH 297

The Tenebrae

Lord, Is It I?                      Matthew 26:17-29

The first candle is extinguished.

Alone in the Garden    Matthew 26:30-46

Hymn                      *Go to Dark Gethsemane*                      UMH 290

The second candle is extinguished.

Betrayed and Denied    Matthew 26:47-75

The third candle is extinguished.

Crucifixion                      Matthew 27:1-2, 11-44

Hymn                      *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*                      UMH 286

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Death on the Cross    Matthew 27:45-54

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Hymn                      *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*                      UMH 298

Burial in the Tomb    Matthew 27:57-66

Hymn

*Were You There?*

UMH 288

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Darkness and Silence

Solo

*What Wonderful Love is This*

But even in the dark and desolate silence of the tomb, God has not deserted us. The Christ candle that is the center of our Lenten wreath reminds us that in all times and in all circumstances, when it seems we have been abandoned and forsaken even by God, we are not alone. **God is with us.**

Final Reading

John 3:16-17

Christ Candle Extinguished

Worshippers are invited to remain in prayer and depart in silence.