



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro, NC 27403

April 2, 2021

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Prelude & Silent Meditation “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior...“Enchiridion,” harm.D.Johnson

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.

Prayer for Good Friday

O God, we return today

to remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus,
and to contemplate what it means to have faith
in the midst of suffering, loss, and injustice.

Even in this story of broken lives and broken hearts,
we trust in your presence, your powers, and your ways.

We trust that in the midst of suffering,

You, O God, are comfort.

When injustice appears to triumph,
and justice appears to have been crucified,

**You, O God, are the one who calls us
to believe the good news
and act with justice.**

When we stray from the path on which you lead us,

**You, O God, offer grace that invites us
back to your ways.**

When night surrounds us, and we are fearful and lacking vision,

**You, O God, are the light that finds,
surrounds and guides us.**

When the world groans under the bonds of oppression,
violence and indifference,

You, O God, empower your people

**to offer the balm of courageous compassion
and peacemaking.**

When the curtain has ripped, the thunder has rolled,
and the world appears to have lost its Savior,
You, O God, are our hope for victory!
We wait for you. Amen.

— from *Our Hope for Victory: Litany for Good Friday*, written by Rev. Kelly Burd. Posted on the United Church of Christ's [Worship Ways](#) website.

Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” UMH 297, v. 1

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

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, v.1

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the
tempter's power; your Redeemer's conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour. Turn not from his
griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

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, v.1

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

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, v.1

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the
Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I
count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Burial in the Tomb Matthew 27:57-66

Solo “Were You There?” Spiritual, arr. William Smith James Esterline, Bass

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Darkness and Silence

Hymn

“What Wonderous Love Is This”

UMN 292, v. 1&4

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.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on; and
when from death I’m free, I’ll sign and joyful be, and
through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on, and
through eternity I’ll sing on.

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

“A special thank you to James Esterline for sharing his beautiful voice with us.”