

About the Service of Tenebrae on Good Friday

A solemn observance known as "Tenebrae" was first celebrated in the Fourth Century. The word "Tenebrae" means darkness. In this service, eight candles are gradually extinguished, symbolizing the flight and denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus at the time of the crucifixion. A ninth candle, symbolizing Christ, remains lighted throughout the service. The light of Christ can never be extinguished. In that light we find forgiveness and fellowship with Jesus.

The service of Tenebrae began as part of the solemn commemoration of the passion of Jesus. Later, perhaps during the Middle Ages, the word Tenebrae was applied to the monastic services of matins and lauds which are services of prayer held in the late evening and early morning.

As a commemoration of the Passion, this service is particularly suited for Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified. There is no clear explanation as to why a day of such infamy would be called good. Some say it is due to the benefits humanity receives because of the faithfulness of Christ "even unto death." Others believe the day was originally designated as "God's Friday," indicating the Holy Mystery of the day, but later slipped into "Good Friday" just as the words "God be with you." became "Goodbye."

Madeliene L'Engle says "Perhaps we must accept our brokenness and not try to repress it before we can affirm the goodness of Good Friday and all that it promises." And so we gather for Tenebrae, a service of darkness, in order to better understand the light of Easter dawn.

Worship

Our service is led by **Jeremy Rutledge** and **Laura Mayo**, Ministers of Covenant.

Readers in the service are **Paul Houpt, Paul Wilson, Jim Avera, Benny Hughes, Joyce Courtois, Nancy Preston, Chuck Fleming** and **Lois Guehring**.

Music is offered by **Carl McAliley**, Organist, **Susan Wegner**, Cellist, and by the Covenant Singers, under the direction of **Fran Avera**, Minister of Music.

The Call to Worship is "Christmas Mourning" by Vassar Miller.

The Unison Confession is from *In Wisdom's Path* by Jan Richardson.

You are invited to join the Covenant Community for an Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages on Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m. as well as for Easter Worship this Sunday at 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Covenant Church affirms the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe. We welcome persons of all racial and ethnic heritages, all sexual orientations, and all faith perspectives to our Christian community. We stand for each individual's right to worship God and to respond to God's call to ministry in her or his own understanding of God's all-encompassing love.

We value a holistic approach to faith and seek to worship in ways that are intellectually credible, emotionally stimulating, spiritually engaging and contemporarily relevant.

We value music and art and ritual to express what we cannot ever fully say.

We value participation so that we might hear many approaches to our shared faith.

Covenant Church
an ecumenical liberal baptist
congregation

Members of Covenant
Ministers

Jeremy Rutledge
Minister

Laura Mayo
Associate Minister

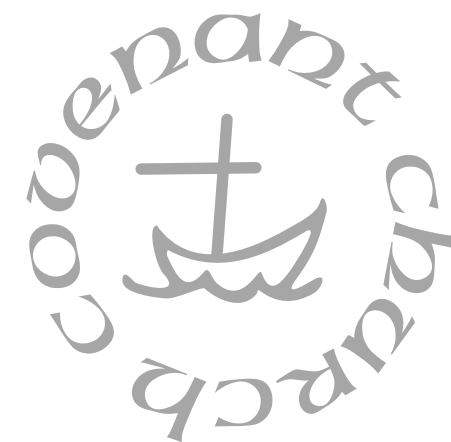
Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

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A Service of Worship for Good Friday Tenebrae: The Vigil of Darkness 2 April 2010

*At night make me one with the darkness.
In the morning make me one with the light.*

Wendell Berry

please enter for worship in silence

A Time for Meditation Pablo Casals
“Song of the Birds”

Music Johannes Brahms
“In stiller Nacht”

In the quiet night, at the first watch, a voice began to lament;
sweetly and gently, the night wind carried to me its sound.
And from such bitter sorrow and grief my heart has melted.
The little flowers - with my pure tears I have watered them all.

The beautiful moon wishes to set out of pain, and never shine again;
the stars will let fade their gleam for they wish to weep with me.
Neither bird-song nor sound of joy can one hear in the air;
the wild animals grieve with me as well, upon the rocks and in the ravines.

Call to Worship

Hymn 76 Love Unknown
“My Song Is Love Unknown”

Call to Confession

Unison Confession

**In your leaving
we say peace.
With the last light of you dying
we say peace.
And where there is no peace
we say peace
in the hope it will rest in our bones.**

**In your going
we say joy.
With the last breath of you leaving
we say joy.
And where there is no joy
we say joy
in the hope it will dwell in our flesh.**

**In your departing
we say love.
With the earth taking you in
we say love.
And where there is no love
we say love
in the hope it will come to our souls.**

Confession in Silence

Music William Byrd
“Ave Verum”

*Jesus, Word of God Incarnate, born of Mary, you suffered on the cross for
humankind. Let your broken body be nourishment for our souls. Kind
Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen.*

* Ushers will seat latecomers
+ Please stand if you are able

A SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHT: The Passion Story

Reading: Matthew 26:20-25
“**One of you will betray me...**”

Hymn 93 Herzliebster Jesu
“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”
(stanzas 1 & 2)

The First Candle is Extinguished

Reading: Matthew 26:31-35
“**You will deny me three times...**”

Hymn 97 Redhead 76
“Go to Dark Gethsemane”
(stanzas 1 & 2)

The Second Candle is Extinguished

Reading: Matthew 26:36-46
“**...your will be done**”

Music Cristobal de Morales
“O Vos Omnes”
*O all you who pass this way,
behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.*

The Third Candle is Extinguished

Reading: Matthew 26:47-56
“**...they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him**”

Hymn 99 Redhead 76
“Throned Upon the Awful Tree”
(stanzas 1 & 2)

The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

Reading: Matthew 26:57-68
“**He deserves death.**”

Hymn 98 Passion Chorale
“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”
(stanza 1)

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

Reading: Matthew 26:69-75
“**I do not know the man!**”

+ Hymn 101 Hamburg
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished

Reading: Matthew 27:15-26
“**Let him be crucified!**”

Music J.S. Bach
“Cruxificus”
*He was crucified for us,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
He died and was buried.*

The Seventh Candle is Extinguished

Reading: Matthew 27:27-31
“**Hail, King of the Jews!**”

Hymn 98 Passion Chorale
“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”
(stanzas 2 & 3)

Reading: Matthew 27:35-44
“**He saved others; he cannot save himself.**”

Silent Reflection

Reading: Matthew 27:45-50
“**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**”

Music arr. Paul Christiansen
“Wondrous Love”

The Eighth Candle is Extinguished

Benediction
*You are invited to remain for silent reflection.
When you are ready, please depart quietly,
respecting others’ need for silence.*

+ Please stand if you are able