



THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

The Service of Tenebrae has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the church and is now celebrated by Christians around the world during Holy Week.

Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, with one candle lit for every reading. As candles are extinguished at the end of each reading and the shadows and darkness increase, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death, and we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the “strepitus” (Latin for “clashing”) – a loud noise symbolizing Christ’s death and rejection by God the Father. The final candle, the Christ candle, representing the life of Christ, is then extinguished. At the close of the service, the bell will toll seven times to represent the fullness of Christ’s sacrifice for us.

The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events of Christ’s passion. It is left unfinished, because the story isn’t complete until Easter Day. After worship, we invite you to quietly meditate on the suffering of Christ for you and your salvation.

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

APRIL 10, 2020, 7:00 P.M.; PRELUDE 6:55 P.M.

The Prelude

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Craig Phillips

The Striking of the Hour

† The Call to Worship

The Reverend Patrick W. Curles

Minister: Bless the Lord Who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

Minister: And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into this world and we loved the darkness rather than light.

People: God is light, in Whom there is no darkness at all.

Minister: For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

People: Everyone that does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light. But all who do what is true come to the Light.

Minister: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, Who redeems us from sin and death.

People: For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

† The Hymn No. 481

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

LEMMELE

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free!

*Refrain: Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.*

Through death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there;
over us sin no more hath dominion - for more than conqu'rors we are! [Refrain]

† The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Most gracious God, look with mercy upon Your family gathered here, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, given into sinful hands, and suffered death upon the cross. Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of His passion, through Him Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, Who taught us when praying to say:

Our Father Which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The Homily

DEATH ON A FRIDAY MORNING

Mr. Curles

The Responsive Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of Your saving embrace: so clothe us in Your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know You to the knowledge and love of You; for the honor of Your Name. Amen.

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL “He that eateth My bread lifted up his heel against Me.”

The Reading Matthew 26:20-25; 30-56

Dr. Frank Young

20 When it was evening, He reclined at table with the twelve. 21 And as they were eating, He said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” 23 He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with Me will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” 25 Judas, who would betray Him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
31 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of Me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’
32 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 33 Peter answered Him, “Though they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” 34 Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” 35 Peter said to Him, “Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You!” And all the disciples said the same. 36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” 37 And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.” 39 And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.” 43 And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. 45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” 47 While He was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The One I will kiss is the man; seize Him.” 49 And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed Him. 50 Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. 51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” 55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. 56 But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

The Response Psalm 41:7-10 [in unison]

All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. 8 They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.” 9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. 10 But You, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

The First Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

THE SHADOW OF REJECTION “They hated Me without a cause.”

The Reading John 15:18-27

Mr. Fred Johnson

18 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of My name, because they do not know Him Who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father. 25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated Me without a cause.’ 26 “But when the Helper comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

The Response Psalm 35:1-3 [in unison]

Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! Take hold of shield and buckler and rise for my help! Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, “I am your salvation!”

The Second Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

THE SHADOW OF TRIAL “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!”

The Reading John 18:33–19:16

Mr. Bo Burks

33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” 34 Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?” 35 Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?” 36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world.” 37 Then Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” 38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in Him. 39 But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” 40 They cried out again, “Not this Man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck Him with their hands. 4 Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!” 6 When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God.” 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to Him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin.” 12 From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this Man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”

13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

The Response Psalm 64:1-6 [in unison]

Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy. 2 Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the throng of evildoers, 3 who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows, 4 shooting from ambush at the blameless, shooting at him suddenly and without fear. 5 They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly, thinking, "Who can see them?" 6 They search out injustice, saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search." For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep.

The Third Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

THE SHADOW OF MOCKING "They gave Him wine to drink mingled with gall."

The Reading Matthew 27:24-31

Dr. Frank Young

24 So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to it yourselves." 25 And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified. 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, 29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spit on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him and led Him away to crucify Him.

The Response Psalm 69:16-21 [in unison]

16 Answer me, O Lord, for Your steadfast love is good; according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me. 17 Hide not Your face from Your servant, for I am in distress; make haste to answer me. 18 Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies! 19 You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to You. 20 Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. 21 They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

THE SHADOW OF THE CRUCIFIXION “They divided My outer garments among them.”

The Reading John 19:17-24

Mr. Fred Johnson

17 and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” 23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, 24 so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

The Response Psalm 69:7-12 [in unison]

7 For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face. 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. 9 For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me. 10 When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach. 11 When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. 12 I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

THE SHADOW OF DARKNESS “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”

The Reading Matthew 27:45-49

Mr. Bo Burks

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” 47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” 48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink. 49 But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.”

The Response Psalm 69:13-15

13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of Your steadfast love answer me in Your saving faithfulness. 14 Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. 15 Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me.

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

THE SHADOW OF DEATH “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.”

The Reading John 19:28-37; Psalm 22:1-15

Mr. Curles

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. 31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—His testimony is true, and he knows that He is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him Whom they have pierced.”

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. 4 In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them. 5 To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame. 6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8 “He trusts in the Lord; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!” 9 Yet You are he who took me from the womb; You made me trust you at my mother’s breasts. 10 On You was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb You have been my God.

15211 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. 12 Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; 13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

The Christ Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

The Strepitus

The Response

Were You There?

Thomas Govan

The Tolling of the Bell and the Departure in Silence