



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, please leave quietly, as you meditate on the suffering of Christ for you and your salvation.

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

APRIL 19, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

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. 261

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

† 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 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 Anthem

My Song Is Love Unknown

John Ireland

(The text to this anthem may be found in the *Trinity Hymnal*, No. 182)

Chancel Choir

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

The Reading Matthew 26:20-25; 30-56; Psalm 41:7-10

Mr. Pat Williams

The Response Hymn No. 248 “Ah, Holy Jesus” [stanzas 1-2]

The First Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

THE SHADOW OF REJECTION “They hated Me without Cause.”

The Reading John 15:18-27

Dr. Bill DuBose

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; Psalm 64:1-6

Mr. Jason Button

The Response Hymn No. 248 “Ah, Holy Jesus” [stanzas 3-4]

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

Mr. Williams

The Response Hymn No. 252 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

SILENCE

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

The Reading John 19:17-24

Dr. DuBose

The Response Hymn No. 247 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

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. Button

The Response Psalm 69:13-21

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. Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me. Answer me, O Lord, for Your steadfast love is good; according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me. Hide not Your face from Your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me. Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies! You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to You. 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. They gave Me poison for food, and for My thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

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

SILENCE

The Strepitus

The Christ Candle is Extinguished

The Response

Were You There?

Thomas Govan

The Tolling of the Bell and the Departure in Silence