

*Order of Worship, First Presbyterian Church
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
April 1, 2021*

“Maundy Thursday” comes from the Latin word “mandatum” which means “commandment,” and “novum” which means “new.” Tonight is our remembrance of Jesus’ last night with his disciples when they shared a meal together and received the commandment of Christ: “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

“Tenebrae” means “darkness” or “shadows.” In this service candles are extinguished and lights are dimmed, symbolizing the flight and denial of Jesus’ disciples before the crucifixion.

Prelude *arr. Ringham*
“When Jesus Wept”
(The prelude is your invitation to quietly prepare to worship God.)

For Prayer and Reflection

God of love, as we prepare to remember the events of this poignant night, help us to see the beauty of Jesus’ self-giving love, and by your Spirit, work in our hearts a desire and commitment to serve each other and our hurting world. It is in Jesus’ name, amen.

Announcements

THE GATHERING

Call to Worship including Psalm 34:1-4, 8

On this day Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

On this day Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

On this day Christ took a towel and washed his disciples’ feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

On this day Christ our God gave us this holy feast,
that we who eat this bread and drink this cup
may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

Therefore, we say together:

**I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

**My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the LORD and let us exalt his name together.

**I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.**

**O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn #97 *Kendrick*
“Meekness and Majesty” (vv. 1, 3)
Meekness and majesty, human and deity,
In perfect harmony, the One who is God.

Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity;
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

O what a mystery, meekness and majesty;
Bow down and worship; for this is your God.

Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible;
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly;
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.

O what a mystery, meekness and majesty;
Bow down and worship; for this is your God.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak . . . we have failed to serve as Jesus served; we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us; we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions. Merciful God, forgive us. Empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Confession

Kyrie **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Scripture Reading John 13:1-17, 33-35

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

Liturgist: Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

All: We give thanks for God's work of creation, liberation, and salvation.

Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and delight, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O holy Lord, eternal God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them; you made us in your own image; and in countless ways you show us your mercy. Therefore, with choirs of angels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, joining our voices in their unending praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Minister: All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. He took our human nature and suffered death on the cross for our redemption.

There he made a perfect sacrifice for the sins for the whole world. We praise you that before he suffered and died, our Savior gave us this holy sacrament and commanded us to continue it until he comes again.

Liturgist: Why do we eat bread at this table?

Minister: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Liturgist: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Minister: The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Liturgist: What do we remember at this table?

Minister: We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Minister: Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and juice, that in eating and drinking we may be made one with Christ and one another.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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, forever. Amen.

The Sharing of the Lord's Supper

Hymn #697

"Eat This Bread"

Taizé

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer after Communion

Hymn #272

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" (vv. 1, 2)

Redhead

Go to dark Gethsemane,
You 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.

Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned.
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of him to bear the cross.

Reading

Luke 22:39-46

First Candle Extinguished

Hymn #281

“Lamb of God” (vv. 1,2)

Paris

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But you have sent him from your side,
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood-
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love, they crucified,
They laughed and scorned him as he died,
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. (Refrain)

Reading

Luke 22:47-53, 63-71

Second Candle Extinguished

Hymn #262

“Ah, Holy Jesus” (vs. 1,2,4)

Herzliebster Jesu

Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,
That mortal judgment has on you descended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected, O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone you.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you; I crucified you.

Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay you,
I do adore you, and will ever pray you,
Think on your pity and your love unswerving, not my deserving.

Reading

Luke 23:1-12

Third Candle Extinguished

Anthem

“Near the Cross”

arr. Drennan

Reading
Fourth Candle Extinguished

Luke 23:13-25

Hymn

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Townend

How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss -
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Reading
Fifth Candle Extinguished

Luke 23:26-31

Hymn #261

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (vv. 1,4)

Hamburg

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.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Reading
Sixth Candle Extinguished

Luke 23:32-43

Hymn #285

“Jesus, Remember Me”

Taizé

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Reading

Luke 23:44-54

Christ Candle Extinguished

Quartet

“Were You There?”

Were You There

The people depart in silence.

Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells

Liturgists: John Eby, Annalee Ward

Music Director & pianist: Kristen Eby

Special Music: FPC Singers

Musicians: John Eby, Kristen Eby, Jill Klinebriel, Linda Longfield

“When Jesus Wept”

Music: Billings; arr. Ringham

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“Meekness and Majesty”

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“Jesus, Remember Me”

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“Lamb of God”

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“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

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“Eat This Bread”

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