

# Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness

The service of worship tonight is in part based on an early Christian service called Tenebrae. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows.” The service will focus on Christ’s pain and suffering on the day of his crucifixion. One of the most conspicuous features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. As it gets darker and darker we will reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real for Jesus the evening before and the day of his crucifixion. Toward the end of the service, the last candle is extinguished, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. The silence of darkness that follows symbolizes the wrath of God that Christ took upon himself on our behalf. The candle of hope is then brought forward symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. By this single light we all depart this service in silence.

# Worshiping the Suffering Servant

APRIL 14, 2017  
7:00 PM

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## **PRELUDE** *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

Emily Baldwin, violin; Erin Baldwin, cello; Carrie Smith, piano; Anne Nagle, organ

## **WELCOME**

Reverend Russell St. John

## **GOD CALLS US TO LAMENT** Psalm 22:1-23a

Reverend Bill Myers

**Pastor:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

**People:** **O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**

**Pastor:** Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**People:** **In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

**Pastor:** To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

**People:** **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me, they wag their heads;**

**Pastor:** “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

**People:** **Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.**

**Pastor:** Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

**People:** **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; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.**

**Pastor:** For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet - I can count all my bones - they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**People:** But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

**Pastor:** Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

**People:** I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you; You who fear the LORD, praise him!

**\*IN FEAR WE PRAISE HIM! No. 79** *My God, My God, O Why Have You Forsaken Me?*

**GOD CALLS US TO REPENTANCE** Acts 3:18-20

Reverend Russell St. John

What God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.

**\*WE RESPOND IN GODLY GRIEF**

### *Come, O Redeemer, Come*

1. Fa - ther en - throned on high, ho - ly ho - ly  
2. Lord, save us from the dark of our striv - ing  
3. Look now up - on our need; Lord be with us.

an - cient e - ter - nal Light hear our prayer.  
faith - less, trou - bled hearts weighed our down.  
Heal us and make us free from our sin.

Come, O Re - deem - er, come; grant us mer - cy.

Come, O Re - deem - er, come; grant us peace.

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**WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

**CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED** 1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**IN THEE IS ALL FORGIVENESS No. 553** *My Sins, My Sins, My Savior!*

**CHRIST INVITES US TO HIS TABLE** 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

**WE FEED ON CHRIST BY FAITH**

**BREAD** *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

**CUP** *When I Survey the Wonderous Cross*

**\*WE BOAST IN JESUS CHRIST**

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all mea - sure,  
2. Be - hold the man up - on the cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders;  
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing, no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom;



that He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His trea - sure.  
a - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers.  
but I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death and re - sur - rec - tion.



How great the pain of sear - ing loss: the Fa - ther turns his face a - way  
It was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished;  
Why should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer,



as wounds, which mar the Cho - sen One, bring ma - ny sons to glo - ry.  
His dy - ing breath has brought me life: I know that it is fin - ished.  
but this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

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**THE DARKNESS OF SUBMISSION** Matthew 26:30; Luke 22:40-44

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

**CHRIST TOOK OUR CUP** No. 249 *'Tis Midnight; and on Olive's Brow*

**THE DARKNESS OF BETRAYAL** Luke 22:45-53

And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation." While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

**WE BETRAY HIM** No. 260 *Were You There? vs. 1*

**THE DARKNESS OF ACCUSATION** Matthew 26:59-68

Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered. "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

**WE ACCUSE HIM NO. 248** *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Has Thou Offended vs. 1-2*

**THE DARKNESS OF DENIAL** Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

**\*WE CONFESS OUR GUILT AND SHAME**

*Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed*

1. A - las, and did my Sav - ior bleed and did my Sov - 'reign die?  
2. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut his glo - ries in,  
Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for such a worm as I?  
when Christ, the might - y Ma - ker, died for man the crea - ture's sin.  
Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?  
Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears.  
A - maz - ing pi - ty, grace un - known and love be - yond de - gree.  
Dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness and melt my eyes to tears.  
My God, why would you shed your blood so pure and un - de - filed  
to make a sin - ful one like me your cho - sen pre - cious child?

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**THE DARKNESS OF CRUCIFIXION** Matthew 27:27-38

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 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. As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

**WE HID OUR FACES FROM HIM**

*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*

1. Strick-en smit - ten, and af - flict - ed, see him dy - ing on the tree!  
2. Tell me, ye who hear him groan - ing, was there ev - er grief like His?  
3. Ye who think of sin but light - ly nor sup - pose the e - vil great  
4. Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, here the ref - uge of the lost;

'Tis the Christ by man re - ject - ed; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he! —  
Friends thro' fear, his cause dis - own - ing, foes in - sult - ing his dis - tress; —  
here may view its na - ture right - ly, here its guilt may es - ti - mate. —  
Christ's the Rock of our sal - va - tion, his the name of which we boast, —

'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed Proph - et, Da - vid's son, yet Da - vid's Lord;  
man - y hands were raised to wound — Him, none would in - ter - pose to save;  
Mark the sac - ri - fice ap - point - ed, see who bears the aw - ful load;  
Lamb of God, for sin - ners wound - ed, sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt!

by his Son God now has spo - ken: 'tis the true and — faith - ful Word.  
but the deep - est stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that — Jus - tice gave.  
'tis the Word, the Lord's A - noint - ed, Son of Man and — Son of God.  
None shall ev - er be con - found - ed who on Him their hope have built.

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**THE DARKNESS OF DEATH** Matthew 27:45-51; 54

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 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?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." 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. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him?" And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook and the rocks were split. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

**WE ARE FILLED WITH AWE No. 259** *Hark! the Voice of Love and Mercy*

**THE DARKNESS OF THE TOMB** Mark 15:42-46

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

**THE SILENCE OF DARKNESS**

**THE LIGHT OF HOPE**

**\*WE ADORE HIM** *Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*  
Sanctuary Choir

**\*BENEDICTION**

**-PLEASE LEAVE IN SILENCE-**