

# Maundy Thursday Service

## April 1, 2010

*Tenebrae, or "Service of Shadows," is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian church for the commemoration of the passion and death of Christ. Through scripture readings and hymns the story of Christ's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion is told. As the Passion story unfolds, candles are extinguished and the darkness deepens, until with the death of Christ, only one light is left burning. This light is removed from the sanctuary, symbolizing Christ's three days in the tomb.*

Organ Prelude

Silent Processional

Call to Worship:

Leader: Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

**People: "Just as I have loved you, you should love one another."**

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

**People: We walk with his family, his friends and disciples who gathered in the upper room and watched him die for our salvation.**

\*Hymn #81 - "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

\*Prayer of Confession:

Leader: God we admit our faults and failures in your sight. We accept the sins of the world with calloused indifference because it is the easiest way.

**People: Forgive us for our easy acceptance of evil.**

Leader: We resist mercy because we do not want to appear soft headed or soft hearted.

**People: Forgive our failure to show sympathy and to be tender to those who are hurting.**

Leader: We are wise in our own eyes, forgetting that to stand humbly before you is the beginning of wisdom.

**People: Forgive our sinful pride and arrogant trust in our own strength.**

Leader: Hear this word of scripture: “Be generous to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.”

**People: We hear, and in hearing we are judged and forgiven.**

Leader: The Lord redeems those who have wronged him through the death of his Son Jesus the Christ. Receive the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People: Amen! Praise the Lord, giver of mercy!**

**Response:**

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy.**

**You are the Christ, giver of mercy.**

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy.**

## **The Disciples**

Scripture: Mark 14:32-42

Reflection

Prayer (unison)

**O Lord, we come to these days commemorating your sacrifice with a distance of time and commitment. We easily fall asleep to keep pain at a distance. We numb ourselves because life is too difficult and we fear death and loss. We hide from you and your request to stay awake. Our vigil is as weak as our faith. Forgive us, as you forgave those disciples so long ago. Give us the strength to be your followers so we can walk into places that we fear and know your strength and presence. Amen.**

\*Hymn #97 - “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

*THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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# Caiaphas, the High Priest

Scripture: Mark 14:53-65

Reflection

Litany Prayer

Leader: Almighty God, you have called us to serve you by serving others. We pray for those who are called to serve as leaders in our church, our nation and our world.

**People: Guide the minds of those who lead and sustain them in the ever challenging search for peace, justice and mercy.**

Leader: Lead us we pray in the paths of righteousness for your name sake.

**People: We pray for pastors and teachers, elders and officers of our churches. May they be filled with the Holy Spirit and guided by your example of servant leadership.**

Leader: We pray for those who are willing to serve in community leadership. We pray for Mayor Maley the council members, Joan Leonard and Mike Hall and all who work in city government. We pray for the planning board and the freeholders of our county.

**People: May they be guided by justice and compassion. We pray they might design a livable community that respects all people, teaches our children well, protects our youth and young adults, aides those who are sick, and supports the elderly.**

Leader: We pray for our Collingswood Food Pantry and the servants who distribute food and care to those in need. We pray for the Interfaith Hospitality Network and all the homeless. May we treat those who are struggling with dignity and grace.

**People: We pray for our brothers and sisters in faith in nearby communities of Camden, Oaklyn, Woodlynne, Westmont, Haddonfield, Haddon Heights and Pennsauken. May they be filled with a spirit of care and concern for their own community. Show us ways to partner with them so a more equitable distribution of wealth and care may happen in our cities.**

Leader: We pray for our nation and its leaders. Guide our President, Congress and Judicial leaders to make good choices for our nation and the world. We pray for those who serve in military service in Iraq, Afghanistan, and places all around the world. May we honor their sacrifice by working with them for peace.

**People: We ache for those who have given their lives for our freedom. We long for the cessation of war, and pray for peace. Guide all who lead those who walk into places we will never know. Comfort those who leave families behind and bring our soldiers home safely.**

Leader: We pray for our world leaders. May they be challenged to work with other countries cooperatively and work for peace and justice. We pray that you crack open the hearts and minds of despots who hurt even their own people. We pray especially for the people of Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, Israel and Palestine.

**People: We thank you, O God that peace can happen in the midst of strife. We thank you for the peace that reigns now in our world. We commend those many Christian workers who labor long and hard for reconciliation in war torn countries.**

Leader: Be with all for whom we pray around the world. May the peace of Christ that challenged Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod strengthen us to work as the hands and feet that God's kingdom may come.

**People: Bless all of those leaders who work for the  
reconciliation of peoples that justice may reign.  
Amen**

*THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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**Peter**

Scripture: Luke 22:55-62

Reflection

\*Hymn #101 - *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

*THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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**Pilate**

Scripture: Mark 15:1-20

Reflection

Anthem: *“Christ, We Do All Adore You”* by Theodore DuBois

From *“The Seven Last Words of Christ”*

Chancel Choir

*THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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## Judas

Scripture: Matthew 26: 45-56; Matthew 27:1-6

Reflection

Prayer

Leader: On this day,

**People: Christ the Lamb of God, gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.**

Leader: On this day,

**People: Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.**

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

**People: Jesus Christ, Son of God gave us the holy feast, that we who eat the bread and drink the cup may proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven. Amen.**

*THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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Hymn #513 PH *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

### **The Lord's Supper**

Reading: Luke 22:1-20

Invitation

Words of Institution

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

*(Please come forward to receive the bread, dip into the cup  
and return to your seats by the side aisles.)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
in this sacred and solemn week, when we see again the depth  
and mystery of your redeeming love,  
help us to follow where you go,  
to stop where you stumble,  
to listen when you cry,  
to hurt as you suffer,  
to bow our heads in sorrow when you die,  
so that when raised to life again  
we may share your endless joy. Amen.**

### **Mary, the Mother of Jesus**

Scripture: John 19:23-27

Reflection

\*Hymn #98 - *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

*THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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### **The Two Thieves**

Scripture: Luke 23:32-44

Reflection

**Prayer (unison)**

**Father, forgive us for we know not what we do. We were there with everyone-Calling for your crucifixion, begging for forgiveness, weeping at this unfolding nightmare of death. We were there, on bended knee, with clenched fist, with stammering questions of Why? You were not spared death, even though you are God. Remember us O Lord, when you come into your Kingdom. Amen**

Hymn #93 "Ah, Holy Jesus"

*THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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**JESUS THE CHRIST**

Scripture: Matthew 27:45-54

Silent Prayer

*THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED*

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Solo: "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

Frank Moore, soloist

*RETURN OF THE LIGHT*

*SILENT RECESSIONAL*

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## *PARTICIPANTS*

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Reflections taken from

*"Were You There? Finding Ourselves at the Foot  
of the Cross"* by Erik Kolbell