

D O N E G A L  
P R E S B Y T E R I A N  
C H U R C H

*founded prior to 1721*

March 28, 2024  
Maundy Thursday

# Tenebrae Service

“The Service of Shadows”



*“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”*

Luke 23:46

This ancient tenebrae service, dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D., commemorates the suffering and death of Christ. The Latin word, “tenebrae,” means “shadows.” It is a ceremony progressing from light to darkness. As the candles are extinguished, they symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. It also portrays the fading light of the world as Christ was departing from it. The service will proceed virtually without announcements.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

“”

\*HYMN

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

#218

- 1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted!
- 2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.
- 3 Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;  
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;  
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,  
God interceded.
- 4 For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation,  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
for my salvation.
- 5 Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,  
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving.

## THE DARKNESS OF MISUNDERSTANDING

THE WORDS IN THE TEMPLE Mark 11:15-18; John 12:28-36

Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?’

But you have made it a den of robbers.”

And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said: **“It is thunder. An angel has spoken to him.”**

Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him:

**“We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”**

Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

(The first candle is extinguished.)

## THE DARKNESS OF BETRAYAL

THE WORDS IN THE UPPER ROOM      Matthew 26:20-28  
(Including the Lord’s Supper)

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another:

**“Surely not I, Lord?”**

He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

Judas, who betrayed him, said:

**“Surely not I, Rabbi?”**

He replied, “You have said so.”

ANTHEM      “Meet Him at the Table”      *Dearman, Darman,  
& Gordon; arr. Kingsmore*

(The second candle is extinguished.)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER      Hippolytus of Rome (circa 215 A.D.)

THE WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION      I Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, 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.

THE LORD’S SUPPER

\*HYMN      “Your Only Son - Lamb of God”      #518

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
but you have sent him from your side  
to walk upon this guilty sod,  
and become the Lamb of God.      R
- R 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.
2. Your gift of love, we crucified;  
we laughed and scorned him as he died;  
the humble King we named a fraud  
and sacrificed the Lamb of God.      R
3. I was so lost, I should have died,  
but you have brought me to your side  
to be led by your staff and rod,  
and to be called a lamb of God.      R

## THE DARKNESS OF TEMPTATION

THE WORDS ON THE MOUNT      Matthew 26:30-31

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,  
all who feel the tempter’s power;  
your Redeemer’s conflict see;  
watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away;  
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

THE WORDS IN THE GARDEN Matthew 26:36-42

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.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

ANTHEM “Gethsemane” *John Ness Beck*

Matthew 26:43-46

Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

(The third candle is extinguished.)

**THE DARKNESS OF INJUSTICE**

1 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 from him to bear the cross.

Mark 14:53, 57-64; 15:1-5; Luke 23:7, 11

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Jesus said, “I am; and  
‘you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of the Power,’  
and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him:

**“Prophecy!”**

The guards also took him over and beat him.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate.

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

## THE DARKNESS OF DENIAL

THE WORDS OF THE COURTYARD

Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying:

**"I do not know or understand what you are talking about."**

And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath:

**"I do not know this man you are talking about."**

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

\*HYMN "What Wondrous Love Is This" *verses 1 & 2* #215

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 When I was inking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

## THE DARKNESS OF REJECTION

THE WORDS BEFORE THE ROMAN PREFECT Luke 23:13-24

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together:

**"Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"**

(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting:

**"Crucify, crucify him!"**

A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified:

**"Crucify, crucify him!"**

And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

## THE DARKNESS OF CRUCIFIXION

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

#221

- 1 O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;  
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.
- 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain:  
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;  
look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.
- 3 What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?  
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love to thee.

THE WORDS OF THE CROSS Luke 23, John 19, & Matthew 27

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying:

**"Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"**

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we

indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.

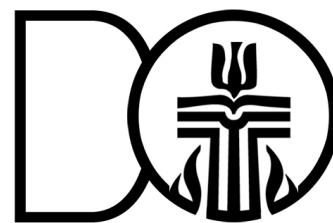
And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

#### THE STRIPPING OF THE PARAMENTS

(Please exit in meditative silence.)

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# Donegal Presbyterian Church

would like to invite you to join us for our

## *Easter Services!*

### Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

- Easter Vigil Service at **8:00 p.m.**, set in the beauty of the worship space created in our Fellowship Hall. The Easter Vigil is based off of the oldest service the church knows. It will be a time attentive to the movement of light, to contemplate God’s saving work in the world, and remember the claim that God has on each one of our lives through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

- Worship at **9:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, singing hymns of praise to God’s gracious work in Jesus Christ.
- Resurrection Egg Hunt, **immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service**, hosted by the Deacons of Donegal. There will be separate age-appropriate areas set up for children ages 0-8 to enjoy the church grounds, hunting for candy-filled eggs.
- Celtic Sabbath Worship at **11:15 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a unique worship experience, contemplating the resurrection of our Lord, sing Celtic hymns of praise to God’s gracious work in Jesus Christ, and celebrating the Lord’s Supper together, as we overlook the natural beauty of the church grounds.