

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Maundy Thursday Worship

A Communion Tenebrae Service

April 13, 2017



LAURINBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DR. DUANE HIX, INTERIM PASTOR

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 2017 THE RITUAL OF TENEBRAE

Meditation before Worship

Love is often recognized in emotion, but it is expressed in relationship and acted out on the stage of life. The love of Christ becomes real not through thought alone but through fellowship and sacrifice. In an expression of love, Christ gathered those who had shared his earthly journey and embraced his ministry. They witnessed to him as Master and Friend. Tonight, we also come in search of such fellowship with Christ and those he still gathers to his side.

The service of Tenebrae, meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows', has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for a monastic community alone, Tenebrae later became an important part of many Holy Week worship services. Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ's passion, music portrays his pathos, and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As scripture is read and candles are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death for ourselves and all creation.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP – from Isaiah 53

One: He grew up before the Lord like a young plant, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, no beauty that we should desire him.

All: He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief; as one from whom others hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

One: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we regarded him as stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

All: But he was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his wounds we are healed. Amen

*Hymn 218 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

*Prayer of Confession

We pray, O God, on a night filled with sorrow, memory and hope. Therefore, let us remember: let us remember that we are made of clay, earthly stuff, subject to change and decay. Yet let us remember also that you breathed into us the spirit of life and molded us in your own image. Let us remember that our flesh is weak, our will is fickle, our love limited, and we have failed both you and your children. Yet let us also remember that you remove the guilt of yesterday, strengthen us for today, and give us purpose for tomorrow. May your presence fill this room tonight, draw us to the cross, and carry us with confidence toward the brighter days that follow. Amen

THE VIGIL OF DARKNESS

(During the vigil, you will remain seated for all parts except when you come forward for communion.)

Mark 14: 1-9 The Plot: Misunderstanding Messiah
The First Candle is Extinguished

ANTHEM Lamb of God arr. Larson

Mark 14: 10-21 Betrayal and Uncertainty
The Second Candle is Extinguished

Hymn 202 *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Communion tonight is by intinction. At the indicated time, the choir will come to the table first, then the congregation. Please come to the table by the center aisle and return by side aisles. Take a wafer (gluten free) from the plate, dip it in the cup, and eat. If you are unable to come forward, we will serve you at your seat. (Please sit as close to center aisle as possible.)

A Prayer of Commitment

We give you thanks, Lord, for your great mercy revealed in this communion of the body and blood of Christ. From it we have received assurance that we are members of the mystical body of your Son, and heirs through hope of your everlasting kingdom. Please enrich us by your continual grace, so that our actions may show the world that Jesus is among us. May your dominion be furthered through the good works you have this night prepared us to fulfill. Amen

Organ Interlude

Sean McDonald

Mark 14:32-46

Gethsemane: Agony and Arrest

The Third Candle is Extinguished

Hymn 220

Go To Dark Gethsemane, vv. 1-3

Mark 14:53-65

Trial by Religious Authorities

The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

Hymn 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Mark 14:66-72

Denial – All Will Fall Away

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

The Anthem of Redemption

We Are Redeemed

Dengler

A Prayer to share the Cross of Christ

Silent Prayer

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.

Mark 15:1-15

Trial by Political Authorities

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished

Hymn 228

Were You There? Vv. 1-3

Mark 15:21-39

Crucifixion and Death

The Seventh Candle is Extinguished

Hymn 227

Jesus, Remember Me (4x)

Words of Parting

Leave in Silence

Tonight's service ends in silence and darkness. After the worship leaders depart, please remain seated until the lights are partially restored, then exit in silence. We thank choir members Roland Stout and Fred Mabry for acting as Lay Leaders in tonight's service.