

## Tenebrae Service

The service of Tenebrae (which means “darkness” or “shadows”) is not a new development in church liturgy. It has been observed in the church since medieval times.

The service usually consists in the reading of a number of Scripture passages. In our case this evening, there will be seven readings followed by the extinguishing of a candle after each reading and the singing of a hymn.

A Tenebrae Service always has a somber tone, reflected in the darkness, in the accounts of Christ’s suffering, in the music, and in the silence of the people as they leave the Sanctuary. But, underlying the somber feeling is the anticipation of the Resurrection which is mirrored in the “Christ candle”.

There are a total of eight candles used in the service. After each reading a candle is extinguished, until only one candle remains, and it is called the “Christ candle”. The “Christ candle” always remains lit, but it is hidden for a time near the end of the service to symbolize Christ’s being taken away to the grave. The candle is then brought back into view to remind us of the hope of the Resurrection.

### “The Power of the Cross”

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then  
nailed to a cross of wood.

**chorus:** This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on Your face,  
bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Every bitter thought, every evil deed  
crowning Your bloodstained brow.

**chorus**

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath  
quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.  
‘Finished!’ the victory cry.

**chorus**

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,  
for through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live  
won through Your selfless love!

**final chorus:** This the power of the cross Son of God - slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost we stand forgiven at the cross.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend / CCLI 209271



covenant.presbyterian.church

Good Friday  
Tenebrae Service

April 7, 2023  
7:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 53:1, 4-5

Pastor Derek Coyle

LEADER: Who has believed what he has heard from us? And  
to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

PEOPLE: **Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrow;  
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

LEADER: But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our  
iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

PEOPLE: **And with his wounds we are healed.**

INVOCATION

"O LOVE DIVINE, WHAT HAST THOU DONE" by Howard Helvey

Choir

EXPLANATION OF THE TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor Derek Coyle

**THE SHADOWS**

(One candle is extinguished at the end of each reading.)

THE SHADOW OF THE AGONY OF THE SPIRIT

Pastor Derek Coyle

Luke 22:39-46

\*HYMN

"There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"

NO. 253

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Luke 22:47-53

Bob Tramel, Ruling Elder

\*HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

NO. 247

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION

Luke 22:54-65

Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

HYMN

"Man of Sorrows! What a Name"

NO. 246

THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

Luke 22:66 - 23:16

Carl Monroe, Ruling Elder

\*HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

NO. 252

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

Luke 23:18-43

Bruce Hurlbut, Ruling Elder

HYMN

"Were You There?"  
(stanzas 1-4)

NO. 260

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Luke 23:44-49

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

\*HYMN

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

NO. 261

THE SHADOW OF BURIAL

Luke 23:50-56

Pastor Tim Reed

\*HYMN

"The Power of the Cross"

(lyrics on back)

**THE CHRIST CANDLE TAKEN AWAY**

SILENT MEDITATION AND PRAYER

**THE CHRIST CANDLE RESTORED**

\*BENEDICTION

Revelation 5:12

LEADER: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth  
and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

*The Christ candle exits down the aisle "into the world".*

*The people exit in silence.*