

A  
TENEBRAE  
Observance



**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

First Methodist Church  
900 Arendell Street, Morehead City, North Carolina

# *A Service of Tenebrae*

This Vigil of Darkness commemorates the suffering and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Dating from the Eighth Century, Tenebrae was originally observed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Holy Week. It represented the darkness that fell over Jerusalem as the Son of God was crucified.

Just as candles are used in Christmas ceremonials to symbolize the birth of Christ, the light of the World; candles are also used in this service and are extinguished to symbolize the fading of the Light, as we mourn the death of the Lord.

# *The Silent Meditation*

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrow; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with His stripes we are whole. *Isaiah 53:3-5*

***The Silent Processional*** (*The steeple bell tolls as the congregation stands and the choir processes in silence. The tolling ceases as the last of the choir is in place.*)

## *Prelude*

## *Shrouding the Sanctuary*

## *The Greeting*

God is Light in whom there is no darkness at all.

## **Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.**

And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the World.

**And we loved the darkness rather than the Light.**

## *Hymn*

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

No. 289

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!

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.

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.

For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

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 Prayer***

Most gracious God, look with mercy upon your family gathered here for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, given into sinful hands and suffered death upon the cross; Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of His passion; Through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

## ***The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross***

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you,  
or in what have I offended you that you should testify against me?  
I led you forth from the land of Egypt  
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

I led you through the desert forty years,  
and fed you with manna.  
I brought you through tribulation and penitence,  
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

What more could I have done for you that I have not done?  
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,  
I made you the branches of my vine;  
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink  
and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,  
and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.  
I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom,  
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.  
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,  
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

I gave you a royal scepter,  
and bestowed the keys of the kingdom,  
but you have given me a crown of thorns.  
I raised you on high with great power,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,  
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,  
but you draw the sword to strike in my name  
and seek high places in my kingdom.  
I offered you my body and blood,  
but you scatter and deny and abandon me,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,  
and you close your hearts to the Counselor.  
I pray that all may be one in the Father and me,  
but you continue to quarrel and divide.  
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,  
but you cast lots for my clothing,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters;  
I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,  
naked and you did not clothe me,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.  
**Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.**

**have mercy upon us. Amen.**

## ***Hymn      "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"      No. 298***

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

## ***The Passion of Our Lord***

### **1. The Darkness of Expediency**

It was two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The religious leaders who collaborated with the Roman occupation were conspiring against Jesus. They had gathered in the palace of Caiaphas the high priest. Caiaphas had received his office at the hands of Valerius Gratus, the former Roman Governor, and now retained it under Pontius Pilate. They were planning to arrest and destroy Jesus quietly so as to avoid a popular revolt among the Jews.

*(The first candle is extinguished.)*

### **2. The Darkness of Envy**

At this time Jesus was lodging at Bethany in the house of Simon the Leper. While He was there, a woman approached and anointed him from an alabaster jar of pure nard. When His disciples saw the act, they were outraged. "Why this waste?" They demanded. "Such costly ointment might have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." Jesus responded, "Why do you bother the woman? The poor are always with you. Indeed, I tell you, that wherever the Gospel is preached throughout the world, what this woman has done will be told in her memory." *(The second candle is extinguished.)*

## ***Anthem***

## ***"Behold the Lamb"***

Getty/Townend

### 3. The Darkness of Greed

Then one of the twelve named Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, went to the chief priests and asked, "What will you give me if I deliver Jesus to you for the Roman Governor?" When they heard the offer, they were glad and promised Judas thirty pieces of silver. From that hour Judas sought an opportunity to betray Jesus.

*(The third candle is extinguished.)*

### 4. The Darkness of Guile

At the beginning of the feast, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, the disciples of Jesus approached him and asked, "Where do you wish us to prepare the Paschal meal?" Jesus took two of His disciples and instructed them, "Go into the city, and you will see there a man carrying a water jar. He will show you a suitable place." The two did as Jesus commanded. They entered the city where they found the man, who brought them to a large upper room. When evening had come, Jesus arrived with the twelve. While they were eating, He said, "I tell you truly that one of you is going to betray Me." The disciples were stunned with grief and began to protest one after the other, "Surely not I!" Jesus replied, "The betrayer is one of you dipping his hand in the dish with Me, the Son of Man is fulfilling Scripture, but woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed." Then Judas slipped out into the night.

*(The fourth candle is extinguished.)*

**Hymn**      *"O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done"*      No. 287

O Love divine, what has thou done!  
The immortal God hath died for me!  
    The Father's coeternal Son  
    bore all my sins upon the tree.  
The immortal God hath died for me!  
    My Lord, my Love, is crucified!

    Is crucified for me and you,  
    to bring us rebels back to God.  
    Believe, believe the record true,  
    ye all are bought with Jesus' blood.  
    Pardon for all flows from his side:  
    My Lord, my Love, is crucified!

    Behold him, all ye that pass by,  
    the bleeding Prince of life and peace!  
    Come, sinners, see your Savior die,  
    and say, "Was ever grief like his?"  
    Come, feel with me his blood applied:  
    My Lord, my Love, is crucified!

### 5. The Darkness of Atonement for the Sins of the World

After they had eaten, Jesus took bread. After reciting the blessing, He broke it and gave it to His disciples as He said, "Take, eat; this is My Body which will be broken for you." Then taking the cup with the traditional blessing, He gave it also to His disciples as He said, "This is My Blood of the covenant which is being shed for you." Then, having sung a hymn, they left the city for the Mount of Olives.

*(The fifth candle is extinguished.)*

**Anthem**      *"Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs"*      Larson

## 6. The Darkness of Foreboding Evil

As they walked, Jesus said to His disciples, “You will all desert Me this very night. So it is written in the prophet Zechariah, “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.” Then Peter protested, “Though all desert, I will remain by you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you truly that in this very night, before the cock crows twice you shall deny Me three times.”

*(The sixth candle is extinguished.)*

## 7. The Darkness of Solitude

Jesus halted at an olive grove called Gethsemane. Then going apart with Peter, James and John, He left them on watch and continued a little farther alone. There He fell on His face in anguished prayer. Three times Jesus prayed apart and three times He returned to find the disciples sleeping. Then said He, “Sleep on and finish your rest. Now is the time for the Son of Man to be delivered into the hands of sinners. Here comes My betrayer.”

*(The seventh candle is extinguished.)*

*Anthem*

*“Father, Forgive Them”*

Choplin

## 8. The Darkness of Betrayal

Jesus had not finished speaking, before Judas arrived with a group of Roman soldiers and other armed men from the Temple. Judas had told them, “The man whom I kiss is the one you want.” In accordance with this arrangement, Judas went directly to Jesus and cried out, “Greetings, Master.” Then he kissed Jesus. Jesus responded, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” Immediately the soldiers laid hands on Jesus and held him fast.

*(The eighth candle is extinguished.)*

## 9. The Darkness of Violence

Then one of the disciples with Jesus drew his blade and cut off an ear from the slave of the high priest; but Jesus said to him, “Sheathe your sword. All who take up the sword will perish by the sword.”

*(The ninth candle is extinguished.)*

*Anthem*

*“O Sacred Head”*

McDonald

## 10. The Darkness of Deserion

Then turning to the mob, Jesus asked, “Have you come for Me as against a rebel bandit with swords? Why did you not seize Me in the Temple, where I sat teaching by day? Were you so afraid of the Jewish people that you must come for Me by stealth? Nevertheless, your actions are fulfilling the words of the prophets.” Then all of His disciples forsook Him and fled.

*(The tenth candle is extinguished.)*

## 11. The Darkness of Denial

Then Jesus was brought before Caiaphas and there questioned by the Sanhedrin. In the courtyard adjoining, Peter waited. Here others accused Peter of being a follower of the Nazarene. Three times Peter denied even knowing Jesus and on the third accusation, Peter swore an oath saying, “I do not know this person”; but the cock interrupted him as it crowed for the second time. Immediately Peter remembered the words of Jesus and went out from the courtyard weeping bitterly.

*(The eleventh candle is extinguished.)*

**Hymn****“Hallelujah! What A Savior”**

No. 165

Man of Sorrows! what a name for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood;  
sealed my pardon with his blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we; spotless Lamb of God was he;  
full atonement can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was he to die; "It is finished!" was his cry;  
now in heaven exalted high. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

**12. The Darkness of Torture**

Jesus was interrogated by Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod. During this time many manners of tortures were inflicted upon Him. He was struck, whereupon some would taunt Him saying, "Prophet, tell us who struck You." He was scourged and a crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Finally, the Roman governor offered Him up to the crowd, but they rejected Him and called for Him to be crucified. Washing his hands of the matter, Pilate relented and ordered the death of Jesus.

*(The twelfth candle is extinguished.)*

**13. The Darkness of Ridicule**

Now was Jesus forced to carry the instrument of His death upon His back through the streets of Jerusalem. As He struggled, the crowd mocked Him, kneeling before Him and proclaiming in derision, "Hail Thou, King of the Jews." Some spat upon Him and struck Him. A few had pity upon Him, crying, "Have mercy, have mercy!" But they were pushed aside.

Finally, when Jesus could no longer bear His burden, an African of Cyrene named Simon was compelled to carry the cross.

*(The thirteenth candle is extinguished.)*

**14. The Darkness of the Cross**

Finally, they came to the place called Golgotha. Here it was that they nailed Jesus to the cross between two thieves. Many in the crowd continued to jeer and mock Jesus, saying, "Let the anointed One, the King of Israel, come down from the cross that we may see and believe." The Roman escorts gambled for His cloak.

*(The fourteenth candle is extinguished.)*

**Anthem****“Were You There”**

McDonald

**15. The Darkness of Death**

Jesus spoke seven times from the cross: to forgive His tormenters, to commend the repentant thief, to comfort His mother, to implore God's mercy, to ask for water, to announce His death and to commend His soul into His Father's keeping.

Jesus having uttered these last words, gave up His Spirit.

*(The Paschal candle is extinguished.)*

**Solo****“Via Dolorosa”**

Phil Routszong

## ***The Song of the Suffering Servant – Isaiah 53:4-9***

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities;  
Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way;  
And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;  
Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep before his shearers is dumb,  
So he opened not his mouth.  
By oppression and judgment, he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered that he is cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,  
Although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

## ***Dismissal***

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross,  
keep you and strengthen you this night and forever. Amen.

*The service is ended! Let all depart in silence.*