

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Welcome!

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, Abbott Church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

An introduction to the history and practice of Tenebrae

Christians meet on Thursday evening of Holy Week to remember Christ's gathering his disciples in an upper room for a special meal before moving toward the events culminating in his crucifixion. It was upon this occasion that Jesus took bread and wine and identified them with himself as a means for remembering him always. This service is designed to draw Christians back in time to recall and experience the significance of that night in the light of their present knowledge of the risen Christ.

The central focus of the service is upon the Lord's Table. First, we recall Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper and partake. Then we devoutly remember the events that transpired leading to Christ's betrayal, denial, and death. The distinguishing feature of the service is the symbolic extinguishing of lighted candles, signifying the approach of Jesus' death. When only the Christ candle remains, it, too, is extinguished as a symbol of Christ's crucifixion. After a period of complete darkness, the Christ candle is re-lit in anticipation of the resurrection.

This extinguishing of lights in memory of Christ's passion is called the Office of Tenebrae (Shadows) and dates back to the fourth century. Originally intended for Good Friday, it has been adapted through the years in a variety of ways. This Maundy Thursday service utilizes candles spaced across the table. At the center is a large white Christ candle. Upon the reading of each scripture passage, the reader extinguishes the appropriate candle and takes a seat in the congregation. With the extinguishing of each candle the sanctuary lights are dimmed by degrees till at the end there is complete darkness. At the close of the service only enough light should be provided for persons to exit in silence.

The gradual extinguishing of light is symbolic of the flight of the disciples, the approach of his enemies and the suffering of Jesus. The total darkness recalls the day Christ was in the tomb.

Welcome Pastor Paul Warren

Call to Worship Psalm 84 (selected verses)

Opening Hymn TH #453 O the Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!

Spread his praise from shore to shore;
how he loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore;
how he watches o'er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
how for them he intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best: 'tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest. O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me; and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

A Responsive Reading for Maundy Thursday

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. (Matt. 22:37-38)

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matt. 22:39-40)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9,10)

OFFERING

Abbott Church depends on your generosity. It is important to realize that people's needs are only going to increase in the coming months. So will you help us come alongside others as we seek to minister with the good news of Jesus and meet people's needs? You can give online at www.abbottchurch.org/giving or by mailing a check to the church office at 3426 Bank St., Baltimore, MD 21224.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

- -Take a moment to mourn the fact that our church body is not able to assemble together this Maundy Thursday.
- -Pray that the Lord would work to enable us to return to a fuller communion with one another soon.
- -Give thanks that though we do not celebrate the sacrament of communion together today we have true communion with Jesus and one another through the power of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in every believer giving us union with Christ and all his people.
- -Ask God to grow in us a deeper hunger and desire to commune with him and his people in this time of waiting and separation.

The Peace

After Jesus had shared the meal with his disciples and washed their feet, he said to them, "I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you . . . Love one another, as I have loved you" . . . He also said "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you."

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

The Office of Tenebrae

The Light	John 12:27-36	George Lenning
The Plotting Begins	Matthew 26:1-5.	Andrew Beaudry
Anointed for Death	Matthew 26:6-13	Sharon Taylor
Preparation for Passover	Mark 14:12-16	Luke Taylor
Judas Identified	John 13:21-30	Laurel Groh
The Scattered Flock	Matthew 26:30-35	Adam Gousse
Sleeping Through the Agony	Mark 14:32-42	Eilrayna Gelyana
The Kiss of Betrayal	Mark 14:43-45	Anna Bibo
Peter's Denial	Luke 22:54-62	Shepherd Warren
The Crowd's Denial	Luke 23:13-25	Kristen Bibo
The Soldiers' Abuse	Mark 15:16-20	Mackenzie Rode
The Crucifixion	Matthew 27:33-44	Stacey Pfeifer
Forsaken by God	Mark 15:33-39	Bryan Rankin

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. *-from John 1*

The Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

Song

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

- 2) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Prophecy of Resurrection

Mark 8:31

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Relighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Consecration

Loving Creator, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. We thank you for the mystery of your love as revealed to us on the cross. We cannot understand all that the cross may mean, but we feel your hand upon us and we would give ourselves afresh to you. Love so amazing, so divine, demands our lives, our souls, our all. Take our lives, use them in your ministry of reconciliation to a world deeply in need of love and mercy and justice and righteousness. Lord, here we are as your disciples. Send us out to do your work.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Take time in the darkness and the silence to reflect upon the passion of our Lord and what he has done for you in his suffering, death and resurrection.

Welcome to Abbott. We're glad we worshiped with you today! April 9, 2020	Staff Contacts PASTOR: J. Paul Warren 410-299-6929 polowarren@gmail.com
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