

Order of Service –28/3/2024

Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae

Gathering Space

Gather initially in silence

O Jesus who travelled (Hannah Brown / Sally Ann Morris)
Sung by musicians as people gather

1. *O Jesus who travelled from valley to shore,
who offered us questions too deep to ignore,
whose stories uncover the truths we've denied,
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our guide?*

2. *O Jesus who treasured the lost and the least,
who called for the exile to join in the feast,
who ventured to touch and to ease and to mend,
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our friend?*

3. *O Jesus who challenged the wealthy and strong,
who fearlessly called us to right what is wrong,
who went to Jerusalem, into the strife,
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our life?*

4. *O Jesus who taught us to serve and to share,
to light for each other a way through despair,
to bless and to break, until all mouths are fed?
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our bread?*

5. *O Jesus whose courage persisted through pain,
who offered forgiveness again and again,
who cried out to God; who still cries out today;
why do we forsake you, O Jesus, our way?*

SONG: [O Jesus who travelled](#), Hannah Brown / Sally Ann Morris; © GIA Publications, Inc *
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Gathering, Greeting and Introduction

Cath

Welcome to this service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is the latin for darkness or shadows and is marked by a series of readings and the gradual extinguishing of candles. It helps us enter into a space where we can identify with the darkness and loss felt by Jesus' followers as they experienced his death.

As some of us have been following Mark's Gospel through Lent, we will hear the passion told from the perspective of Mark. There will be six readings will be followed by a response or song

and the extinguishing of a candle. Towards the end of the liturgy, a single candle is hidden symbolising the light and hope we have in Christ over the forces of darkness.

We will depart in silence with the Christ Candle burning in the dark.

We prepare now to follow Jesus into the darkness, held in God's compassionate embrace. Let us prepare a place together.

Within our darkest night (Taize)

Within our darkest night

You kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

Taize © Ateliers et Presses de Taize

In the worship space

Call to worship

Cath

God of wisdom, God of light,
as we hear again the unfolding
of the betrayal, suffering and death of Jesus,
distract us from what is too familiar and
speak to us of the mystery here: of what this has to do with us.

Let us find ourselves in this history:
players in Jesus' condemnation,
and those for whom Jesus himself plays.

For he came not to condemn the world
but that all who believe in him
might be delivered from the power of sin and death
and become heirs with him of eternal life.

Keep alight a flame in the darkness,
that we might believe again,
and have life in him – in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Reading 1 – Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Sammy

³ And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,^[a] as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.⁴ There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that?"⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii^[b] and given to the poor." And they scolded her.⁶ But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me."⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.⁹ And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Response: The first candle is extinguished

Tonight we minister to each other with oil in a gesture of healing. As the woman who anoints Jesus does, let us give thanks for one another as we do.

People anoint the person next to them (if they want to) by dipping their hand in the oil and marking the sign of the cross on their hand.

Song: **Nothing is wasted** (David Bjorlin)

*Nothing is wasted,
no, nothing is wasted,
nothing is wasted in the hands of God. (repeat)*

*All things are sacred,
yes, all things are sacred,
all things are sacred in the hands of God. (repeat)*

David Bjorlin, 2023© GIA Publications, all rights reserved;
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Reading 2: The last supper

Amelia

¹⁷ And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."²³ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said to them, "This is my blood of the^[c] covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Response: The second candle is extinguished

Let us pour wine for our friends and share bread with one another

People pour wine / grape juice for those at their table

and eat the bread, after a shortish time, the musicians begin

Song: **In the taking, in the sharing** (Shawn Whelan)

*In the taking, in the sharing,
in the breaking, in the caring;
in the lifting, in thanksgiving,
in outpouring, in forgiving...*

© Shawn Whelan 2014, used with permission

³² And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."^[a]³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴³ And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant^[e] of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ And they all left him and fled.

⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

Response – the third candle is extinguished

When were you stripped bare?

remove items, silent contemplation

Reading 4 - Jesus Before the High priest

⁵³ And they led Jesus to the high priest. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council^[f] were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"^[g] ⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death.⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

¹⁵ And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things.⁴ And Pilate again asked

him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Response: the fourth candle is extinguished

Song: His life for coin / Christ our Lord (David Stephens) verses 1-4.

*His life for coin, betrayed by a kiss
His life for coin: Christ our Lord*

Denied by him, trusted friend...

Are you the king? The son of god...

You carry such weight on your back...

David Stephens, written for Good Friday 2016 at Brunswick UC
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Reading 5 Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

Amelia

⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked.⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹ And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged^[k] Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Response: the fifth candle is extinguished

Response with the olive branches

Song: Pray with me the night has come (David Bjorlin)

*Stay with me, the night has come, (x3)
and soon it will be morning, and soon it will be morning.*

Pray with me, the night has come...

Watch with me, the night has come...

Weep with me, the night has come...

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Music: CYSGA DI FY MHLNTYN TLWS; Welsh traditional

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour^[1] when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷

³³ And when the sixth hour^[1] had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.^[1] ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he^[1]breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son^[s] of God!"

Response: the sixth candle is extinguished.

The Lenten cloth is torn and placed at the foot of the Cross. The Christ Candle is left burning.

Response: pause in the darkness

Concluding Prayer

Cath

Great God,
flame persisting in our night:
you are hope in the world's dark places.
Amen

➤ *The people depart in silence*

Thank you

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Planning:
Helen Burnham
Cath James
Natalie Sims
Amelia Ware

Bible readers:
Sammy Dixon
Amelia Ware
Helen Burnham

Musicians:
Shawn Whelan
(co-ordinator)
Helen Burnham
Glenice Cook
Leigh Johnston
Natalie Sims

Liturgist:
Cath James
(Minister of the Word-
CYA)

Editing / Production:
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
James Clough
Shawn Whelan