

**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City  
Liturgy for Maundy Thursday  
April 9th, 2020  
Communion and Office of the Tenebrae**



**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds**

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another.  
Just as Christ has loved us,  
let us love one another.

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

We Have received from God a new Covenant. With broken bread and shared cup, we celebrate it.

**This is a night of remembrance and celebration. It is also a time of fear and betrayal.**

At table with Christ, we receive a new commandment. We are called to love one another, as Christ loves us.

**We are disciples of Jesus when we love one another. Through love, we show our gratitude to God for the gift of Jesus.**

In thanks to God, we become a servant of others. Following Jesus' example, we become foot washers.

**We have come to learn from Jesus Christ. We are ready to follow where Christ leads. Amen**

### **Scripture Reading: Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

12 “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.

### **Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

**Deliver us, O God, from the grip of our fears. It is so costly to follow Jesus, and we do not want to risk our lives. There are people we find it difficult to love, and we do not want to sacrifice our advantages. We find it hard to speak our faith, and there are places we do not want to go. Yet we love Jesus and want to be his disciples. Help us to gain the courage we need to follow him, that we may not grow weary or lose heart. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 41-47**

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## **Hymn # "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

1 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.

2 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 through his blood.

3 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?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (responsive)**

The Lord said to Moses:

This shall be a day of remembrance for you,  
you shall celebrate it as a festival of the Lord.

Paul says to the Church:

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.  
You made us in your image,  
and freed us from the bonds of slavery.  
You claimed us as your people,  
and made covenant to be our God.  
You fed us manna in the wilderness,  
and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey.

When we forgot your covenant  
you spoke through prophets,  
calling us to turn again to your ways.  
Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with the celestial choirs  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty,**

**Who was and is and is to come.**

**Blessing and glory and wisdom**

**And thanksgiving and honor and power and might**

**Be to our God forever and ever!**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
In humility he descends from your heights,  
to kneel in obedience to love's commands.

He who is boundless takes on the bondage of our sin.  
He who is free takes our place in death's prison.

He who is risen leads us to eternal life.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,  
we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us,  
and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,  
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

**Christ is the bread of life.**

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord until he comes in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ  
and with all who are baptized in his name,  
that we may be one in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit  
to live as love commands.

Bound to Christ,  
set us free for joyful obedience and glad service.  
As Jesus gave his life for ours,

help us to live our lives for others  
with humility and persistent courage.

Give us strength to serve you faithfully  
until the promised day of resurrection,  
when, with the redeemed of all the ages,  
we will feast with you at your table in glory.

**Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **The Office of the Tenebrae (“darkness”) – Extinguishing of the Lights**

### **I The Darkness of Misunderstanding: Matthew 26: 1-13**

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, 2 “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. 5 “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

6 While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. 9 “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. 12 When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. 13 Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

**“Ah Holy Jesus” v. 1**

**Ah Holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended,  
That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.**

### **II The Darkness of Betrayal: Matthew 26: 14-16, 20-25**

14 Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests 15 and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

### **"Ah Holy Jesus" v. 2**

**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.**

### **III The Darkness of Denial: Matthew 26: 31-35**

31 Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:

"'I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

34 "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

### **"Go to Dark Gethsemane" v. 1**

**Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;**

**Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour,**

**Turn not from His griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

### **IV The Darkness of Solitude: Matthew 26: 36-46**

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

### **"Go to Dark Gethsemane" v. 2**

**See him in the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;**

**O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!**

**Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.**

### **V The Darkness of Rejection: Matthew 27: 15-26**

15 Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. 16 At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. 17 So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

20 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

21 "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered.

22 "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!"

23 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

25 All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

26 Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

### **"O Sacred Head Now Wounded" v. 1-2**

**O sacred head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown;  
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn!**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.**

### **VI The Darkness of Mockery: Matthew 27: 27-31**

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

### **"Were You There?" v. 1**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

## **VII The Darkness of the Cross: Matthew 27: 32-44**

32 As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. 37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

### **"Were You There?" v. 2 and 3**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

### **Prayer of Parting (unison)**

**O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ,  
who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal.  
Wash us from the stain of sin,  
so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail,  
but follow your Son through every trial,  
and praise him always as Lord and Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Benediction**