



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364



Tenebrae Service, April 18th, 2025 • 7:30 PM

Pastor
• John King

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic

Administrative Assistant
Miranda Lacefield

Ministers – All of Our Members

Our Good Friday Service contains elements of a Tenebrae – meaning “darkness” or “shadows.” Tenebrae originated in monastic communities sometime before the ninth century. It uses primordial symbols of light and darkness, silence and sound. Let these speak to you on a level that goes beyond words or definitions.

Perhaps the progressive darkness could be understood as the light of God’s love being extinguished as prophets, have been silenced. Finally, the last remaining light is removed, leaving us in complete darkness. Some may understand this to express a cry of anguish that even Jesus, Light of the World, died.

When this light is removed, following the ancient custom of the Tenebrae service, you will hear a loud noise, called the “strepitus.” It could represent the earthquake that followed Jesus’ death and or evoke a sense of chaos and fear as all creation cries out in anguish at the death of the Messiah. Allow these primeval expressions to lead you to a place of the spirit that goes beyond what words can say.

***THE CALL TO GOD’S PRESENCE**

PASTOR: God calls us together in peace and love.

ALL: God calls us together into light and life.

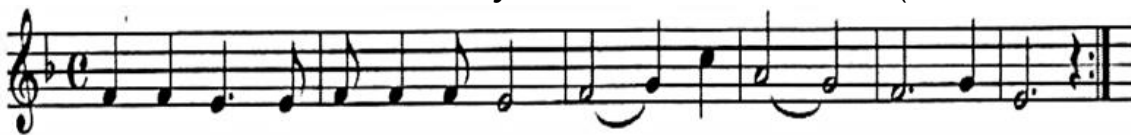
PASTOR: We pause to pray and praise, to remember and reflect.

ALL: We come because we know of the saving passion of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, the Son of God, our Savior.

HYMN

Stay With Me

Berthier (Taizé Community)



Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch ___ and pray, ___ watch and pray.

***INVOCATION (UNISON)**

God of love and peace, as we remember Christ's suffering, our hearts are filled with sorrow. Forgive us for our cruel indifference to the cross, and to the sufferings that your people yet endure. Teach us the good news of your forgiveness. Allow humanity, sinful though we are, to live anew, and hasten the day when the whole world shall be born again. Amen

HYMN

Wounded for Me

See Insert

Angie Lynard will sing the verses; the congregation will join in the chorus.

Psalm 55:11-14

In the heart of the city, destruction awaits.

Oppression and lies swarm the streets,
and they will not take leave; no, they will not go.

If it were just an enemy sneering at me,
I could take it.

If it were just someone who has always hated me, treating me like dirt,
I'd simply hide away.

But it is you! My equal,
my trusted friend, my companion.

We enjoyed sweet conversation,
walking together in the house of God among the pressing crowds.

FIRST LESSON - *Jesus' Arrest* John 18:1-14

HYMN

Old Rugged Cross

#195, v. 1-3

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

**Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay
down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a
crown.**

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left the glory of heaven
to bear it to cold Calvary. **(Refrain)**

3. In that old rugged cross, which bore Love so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
For upon that old cross Jesus suffered and died
to pardon and sanctify me. **(Refrain)**

(Music: George Bennard, 1913; words: George Bennard, 1913; alt.)

Isaiah 52 1-3: All read in unison

**Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.**

SECOND LESSON - *Peter's Denial* John 18:15-27

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

2. Upon the cross of Jesus within my mind I see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my grieving heart with tears two wonders I confess--
the wonders of Christ's glorious love and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ's face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

(Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1881; words: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872; alt.)

Isaiah 52 4:5: All read in unison

**Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our afflictions,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.**

THIRD LESSON - *Jesus Before Pilate* John 18:28-40

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded #226, v. 1-3

1. O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, your only crown,
How pale you are with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does your visage languish which once was bright as morn!

2. What you, dear Savior, suffered was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, but yours the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior, for I deserve your place;
Look on me with your favor, O grant to me your grace.

3. What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest friend;
For this your dying sorrow, your pity without end?
May I be yours forever; and though my days be few,
O Savior, let me never outlive my love for you!

(Music: Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601; harm. J. S. Bach, 1729; words: medieval Latin, attrib. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; German paraphr. by Paul Gerhardt, 1656; transl. James W. Alexander, 1830; alt.)

Isaiah 52: 6-12: All read in unison

All like sheep have gone astray;

we have all turned to our own way,

and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out himself to death
and was numbered with the transgressors,
yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.

FOURTH LESSON - *Jesus is Sentenced* John 19:1-16a

HYMN – **Lead Me to Calvary** **See Insert**
Angie Lynard will sing the verses; the congregation will join in the chorus.

Psalm 22: 1-18 (PASTOR ONLY)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.

I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like baked clay,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they bound my hands and feet.
I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

FIFTH LESSON - *Jesus' Death* John 19:16b-42

THE STREPITUS IS HEARD (Latin for "great noise")

HYMN

Were You There

African American spiritual

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

****DEPART IN SILENCE***



Special Thanks to Angie Lynard and Glenn Brackens for sharing their musical talents this evening