

Tenebrae Service

In the Mulbarton Group of Churches

The service of worship tonight is taken from an early Christian service called Tenebrae. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." Tonight we will experience only a small portion of Christ's pain and suffering the day of His crucifixion.

One of the most conspicuous features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains.

In our service tonight we can reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real for Jesus that evening. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of his death, the shutting of his tomb and reminding us of the crushing weight of sin that Christ takes upon himself – our wrongdoing.

The service ends with a reading of Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant which sets the tone for the final days of Holy Week.

Opening Hymn

My Lord, what love is this
That pays so dearly
That I, the guilty one
May go free!

And so they watched him die
Despised, rejected
But oh, the blood he shed
Flowed for me!

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me
My debt he pays,
and my death he dies
That I might live, that I might live
(Last time only) That I might live!*

And now, this love of Christ
Shall flow like rivers
Come wash your guilt away
Live again!

Graham Kendrick
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Leader: The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into this world, and we loved darkness rather than light.
God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Time of Silent 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, now and forever. **Amen.**

Abandoned and Deserted: Matthew 26:20-46

Silence

Stay with me, remain here with me.
Watch and pray, watch and pray!

First candle is extinguished

Betrayed and Arrested: Matthew 26:47-56

Silence

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch take heart!

Second candle is extinguished

Tried (Caiaphas), Accused and Denied: Matthew 26:57-75

Silence

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark
and take all fear away.

Third candle is extinguished

Condemned: Matthew 27:1-5

Silence

Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away,
that never dies away.

Fourth candle is extinguished

Tried (Pilate) and Sentenced: Matthew 27:6-23

Silence

Silent, surrendered, calm and still,
open to the word of God.
Heart humbled to his will,
offered is the servant of God.

Fifth candle is extinguished

Humiliated, Mocked and Beaten: Matthew 27:24-31

Silence

Laudate Dominum, laudate dominum, omnes, gentes, alleluia.
Sing praise and bless the Lord, sing praise and bless the Lord,
peoples, nations, alleluia.

Sixth candle is extinguished

Crucified: Matthew 27:32-50

Silence

May the Lord bless you,
may the Lord protect you and guide you,
may his strength uphold you,
his light shine upon you,
his peace surround you,
his love enfold you.
May the Lord bless you.

Seventh candle is carried out of the church, as music plays

Music: Christ has died (Hill)

A large book is dropped, symbolising the earthquake at Christ's death.

Song of the Suffering Servant- Isaiah 53:4-9

Go in peace. May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on the cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever more. **Amen.**

Please depart from the service tonight in silence.



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Sharing the journey

WITH THE VILLAGES OF MULBARTON,
FLORDON, BRACON ASH AND HETHEL