

First Presbyterian Church
A TENEBRAE SERVICE FOR HOLY WEEK
Theme: "WALKING THE PATH THAT JESUS WALKED"

This station-based worship experience will help worshipers try to imagine what Jesus was feeling before he died. Each station represents an event from his final hours.

WE GATHER TO STAY WITH JESUS

Gathering song: "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" BoP#204

Call to Worship:

Voice 1: We are gathered to recall the night when Jesus was betrayed.
Are you ready to come to the feet of Christ,
whose Life was poured out for you?

All: By the grace of God, we are.

Voice 2: Can you watch while Jesus prays in the garden?

All: By the grace of God, we can.

Voice 3: Will you follow Jesus, even into the night of betrayal?

All: By the grace of God, we will.

Voice 1: Then let us praise God, even in the hours of darkness.

**All: God of all grace and steadfast love,
greatly is your name to be praised in all the earth!**

Hymn: "O Sacred Head sore wounded" BoP #239

Prayer of Reflection

God of love, we remember today all that our blessed Lord endured for us. Let us remember how Jesus was betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men ...

Lord Jesus, we remember today that it was one of
Your own familiar friends who betrayed You,
and we know that there is nothing that so breaks the heart
as the disloyalty of one whom we call friend.

Grant that we may not betray You.

Save us:

From the cowardice that would disown You when it is hard to be true to You;

From the disloyalty that betrays You in the hour when You need some one to stand by You;

From the fickleness that blows hot and cold in its devotion;

From the fair-weather friendship that, when things are difficult or dangerous,

makes us ashamed to show whose we are and whom we serve.

We stand by you now and vow to represent you always. Amen.

Silence

(During this moment of silence we will make confession to the Lord)

Solo: "What wondrous love is this" Suzanne McIntosh

TENEBRAE SERVICE

We relive the last moments with Jesus through Scripture and song

Station 1: Jesus prays at Gethsemane Emily Kaldeway
Luke 22:39-46

Hymn: "Go to Dark Gethsemane" BoP#230

Station 2: Jesus is arrested George McMillan
Luke 22:47-53

Hymn: "Come let us to The Lord our God" BoP#194 (verses 1, 3, 5 & 6)

Station 3: Peter disowns Jesus Brain Dyck
Luke 22:54-62

Lenten Insert: Roberta Wonnacot

Hymn: "Lord Jesus you shall be my song as I journey" BoP # 665

Station 4: Jesus stands before Pilate and Herod Laurens Kaldeway

Luke 22:66-23:12 and Matthew 27:23-25

Meditation:

Consider all those who were with Jesus in his final days and what all these different stations represent. Let us consider Jesus and Peter, Jesus and Judas, Jesus and his Disciples. Remember also those who a week before had rolled out the “red carpet,” waved palm branches to welcome him into Jerusalem. No doubt there were many in that same crowd who cried out, “crucify him, crucify him.” Let us take a moment to think of how he stood on Pilate’s pavement in shame and ridicule.

As we pause to consider those figures and remember those close to Jesus in his final days, which of these figures represent us?

Are we like Peter who vowed that he would never deny him but did so in the heat of the moment?

Are we Judas who carried out the act of betrayal and sealed it with a final kiss?

Are we among the crowd who forsook him and turned him over to be crucified?

Perhaps some of us are in Pilate’s place and we are carrying out the final act of washing our hands clean of his blood.

Maybe we are just the silent onlookers standing in the crowd; watching in fear and cannot do a thing to help Jesus.

Were you there brothers and sisters when they mocked, sentenced and left Jesus to carry that cross to Calvary?

Today as we look back and put ourselves in the place and time where Jesus was crucified, we don’t have to do it with shame, scorn and guilt. Jesus went to Calvary, died on that cruel cross so that you and I could stand in grace. As we ponder Jesus’ last night with his friends and family and how alone he felt as they fell asleep while he prayed in Gethsemane, we live knowing that we are never alone because God through his grace always stand with us. Amen.

Hymn: “Just as I am Without One Plea” BOP #682

Station 5: Jesus is sentenced

Fiona Kaldeway

Luke 23:23-25

Station 6: Jesus is crucified

Randy Heida

Luke 23:26-43

Hymn: "Were you There When They Crucified my Lord" BoP # 233 (verses 1-3)

Station 7: Jesus dies

Nathan Heida

Luke 23:44-46

Station 8: Jesus is buried

Luke 23:50-56

Hymn: "Were you There When They Crucified my Lord" BoP # 233 (verses 4-5)

Silence for Reflection

Benediction

