

01 April 2021 – Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Communion – Trinity, St. Andrew's, Knox

Instrumental Music Prelude

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

St Andrew's *'Tenebrae'* is Latin for shadows. Through scripture and music, we will recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. The candlelight service gets progressively darker as the service unfolds until the sanctuary is in total darkness. You are invited to prepare a bowl for hand washing, communion elements and 11 candles at home. On-site participants have received individual communion packets and followed appropriate BC health guidelines.

Trinity As we gather in the name of Jesus we remember and acknowledge with gratitude the Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ – on whose traditional and unceded territory we gather. As we remember let us also recommit to reconciling relationships.

Call to Worship (**Knox** leads and **all** respond)

This is the day that Jesus gathered with his disciples in an upper room.

This is the day that Jesus shared a meal as a sign of God's great love.

This is the day that Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet showing us how to serve others.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

St. Andrew's and Trinity exit platform here...

➤ *Brother, sister, let me serve you*

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Washing and Sharing a Meal

On the night of his arrest, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment and set an example for them by washing their feet. In this act of service, he reminded them to care for and serve one another. You are invited to wash your hands – or, if possible, to have your hands washed and to wash the hands of another – to serve and be served. Remember your baptism and give thanks with humility.

~Take time for this ritual hand washing in your own space. ~

Round the table in an upper room voices fell silent. This is the table where Jesus is host. Come to this table all who hunger and thirst. We gather here to remember the compassion of Jesus Christ. **Let us pray...**

Creator of heaven and earth, you spoke, and order emerged from chaos – light came into the darkness. You formed us in your image and called us to be your people. You spoke words of truth and law and created community. Through the prophets you called us to justice and peace. In the fullness of time your word became flesh and lived among us. Jesus shared our human nature – lived and died as one of us. He taught those who sought to follow his way – he healed the sick – ate and drank with outsiders – proclaimed your good news of grace. We give you thanks O God, for Jesus – for the gift of your love and grace among us. **Amen**

Round the table in an upper room voices fell silent and Jesus took the unleavened bread, and, with a face drawn and tired, ripped it. **“This is my body,”** he said. The followers looked at each other, foreheads furrowed. **“Take it and eat it, all of you.”**

And as they ate a piece each, chewing over silent questions, Jesus took the cup of wine that every Passover meal requires and stared into it saying, **“This is my blood, the sign of the new covenant. Drink from it all of you.”** And as whispers were heard round the city and religious leaders moved by stealth to the meeting place, they did drink – all of them.

At this table our voices fall silent as we pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Fill them and fill us with the abundance of Jesus – the grace of God with us.

Here is that bread, broken. Here is that wine, poured out.
Come, and eat your meal.

~ Everyone consumes the elements in their own space ~

Holy God, on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this message on our hearts and strengthen us in service, in unity, and in love. **Amen**

➤ *What wondrous love is this* 242

St. Andrew's and Trinity rejoin platform here...

Scripture and Reflection

- **Matthew 26: 30-35 / Candle / Silence**

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, *“You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the*

shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

Peter said to him, *“Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.”*

Jesus said to him, *“Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”*

Peter said to him, *“Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”* And so said all the disciples.

• Matthew 26: 36-46 / Candle / Silence

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, *"Sit here while I go over there and pray."*

He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, *"I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."* And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."*

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, *"So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Again, he went away for the second time and prayed, *"My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."*

Again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, *"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is*

betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See my betrayer is at hand."

- **Matthew 26: 47-56 / Candle / Silence**

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, *"The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."*

At once he came up to Jesus and said, *"Greetings, Rabbi!"* and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, *"Friend, do what you are here to do."* Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, *"Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"*

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, *"Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."*

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

• Matthew 26: 57-68 / Candle / Silence

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, *“This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’”*

The high priest stood up and said, *“Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”*

But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, *“I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”*

Jesus said to him, *“You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, *“He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?”*

They answered, *“He deserves death.”*

Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, *“Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”*

• **Matthew 26: 69-75 / Candle / Silence**

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, *“You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”*

But he denied it before all of them, saying, *“I do not know what you are talking about.”*

When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, *“This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”*

Again, he denied it with an oath, *“I do not know the man.”*

After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, *“Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”*

Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, *“I do not know the man!”*

At that moment the cock crowed.

Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: *“Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”* And he went out and wept bitterly.

• Matthew 27: 1-10 / Candle / Silence

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, *“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”*

But they said, *“What is that to us? See to it yourself.”*

Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, *“It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”* After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, *“And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”*

- **Matthew 27: 11-14 / Candle / Silence**

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, *“Are you the King of the Jews?”*

Jesus said, *“You say so.”* But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Then Pilate said to him, *“Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”*

But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

- **Matthew 27: 15-31 / Candle / Silence**

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, *“Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, *“Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for*

today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, *“Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”*

And they said, *“Barabbas.”*

Pilate said to them, *“Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”*

All of them said, *“Let him be crucified!”*

Then he asked, *“Why, what evil has he done?”*

But they shouted all the more, *“Let him be crucified!”*

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, *“I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”*

Then the people as a whole answered, *“His blood be on us and on our children!”*

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "*Hail, King of the Jews!*" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

- **Matthew 27: 38-44 / Candle / Silence**

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "*You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.*"

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "*He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come*

down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

- **Matthew 27: 45-46 / Candle / Silence**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" that is, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*"

- **Bible Closes / Candle / Silence**

Lights out! Everyone leaves the platform here...