

Deep in the shadows: Called deep into the story
Tenebrae service
A Joint Good Friday Service of
Huntington Mennonite Church and
Warwick River Mennonite Church
Friday, April 02 2021

Welcome and Service Description – Howard Miller

Tenebrae is Latin for “darkness” or “shadows” and has often been used as a Good Friday service. Tenebrae services are often marked by reading from Lamentations, Psalms, or both and gradually extinguishing candles and lights until a single candle, considered a symbol of Jesus, remains. At the end of the service, this candle can be hidden or extinguished, symbolizing the apparent victory of evil.

Call to worship – Howard Miller

One: Today we gather to enter this story of betrayal and pain together.

Many: With heavy feet we enter the story. The sea, the earth, the sky, the woods, the current, the wilderness, all lead us here. We rest in God’s shadow.

One: We are here in the darkness remembering Jesus’ death.

Many: Slowly we open our hearts to grief and to our part in the story.

One: We are here in the darkness, following Christ, who says, “Take up your cross.”

Many: Deep in the darkness, we trust that death is not the end. And there was darkness.

Song: *Within our Darkest Night*

1. THE SHADOW OF GETHSEMANE

Scripture Excerpts from Matthew 26:36-41; Mark 14:43-46 (NABRE) – Don Brunk

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Scripture response: Psalm 42:1-2 (NIV) Laurie Brunk

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

Song: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Prayer – John Dey

Lord, there have been times when we, like Judas, have betrayed the ones we love. Forgive us, we pray.

Extinguish a candle.

2. THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

Scripture: Matthew 26:69-75 – Steven Albang

Scripture response: Psalm 42:3 (NIV) – Carl Aude

My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

Song: *Stay With Me*

Prayer – Howard Miller

Lord, like Peter, we have been afraid and have denied the ones we love. Forgive us, we pray.

Extinguish a candle.

3. THE SHADOW OF CONDEMNATION

Scripture: Mark 15:1-5, 15; John 19:1-3 – Richard Siebels

Scripture response: Psalm 42:4 (NIV) – Theresa Siebels

These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

Song: *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

Prayer – John Dey

Lord, like the chief priests, we have lost sight of the truth and accused the innocent unfairly. Forgive us, we pray.

Extinguish a candle

4. THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS

Scripture: John 19:6, 15-17 – Carolyn Miller

Scripture: response Psalm 42:5 (NIV) – Carl Aude

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. Reflection

Song: *Oh Love, How Deep, How Broad*

Prayer – Howard Miller

Lord, like the crowd, we have been swept up in the current of condemnation. Forgive us for inflicting harm, we pray.

Extinguish a candle.

5. THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

Scripture: Luke 23:33-34 – Chris Miller

Scripture response: Psalm 42:7-8 (NIV) – Ronda Miller

Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life.

Song: *Were You There?*

Prayer – John Dey

Lord, deep in the shadows, we know we have been part of your crucifixion, and have chosen death over life in many ways. Forgive us, we pray.

Extinguish a candle.

6. THE SHADOW OF GRACE

Scripture: Luke 23:39-43; John 19:25-27 – Betty Kurtz

Scripture response: Psalm 42:9-10 (NIV) – Carl Aude

I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?” My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

Holy Communion Shared

Song: *So Much Wrong and So Much Injustice*

Prayer – Howard Miller

Lord, at the crucible moments in our lives, give us, like the thief, courage to face and speak the truth. And like Mary, may we stand with the ones we love, even as they suffer.

Extinguish a candle.

7. THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Scripture: Luke 23:44-46 – Micah Shenk

Moment of silence

Scripture response: Psalm 42:11 (NIV) – Mackenzie Butler

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Song: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Sending blessing – John Dey

In the darkest of moments, in the deep folds of night . . . this is where we sit in the story. The place where the followers have lost their center. In this suspended space, our souls cry out: Where do we go from here? May we be compelled to stay with the darkness a little longer and allow it to teach us. Go into this night with an open heart. Prayer Jesus, in the eclipse of the sun, we hear your cry. Open our hearts to follow in your steps, to receive the mystery of your life and your death. Amen.

Extinguish the last candle.

Please Log off in silence.

Zoom Link Information

Huntington Mennonite Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Good Friday Service

Time: Apr 2, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144063840>

Meeting ID: 861 4406 3840

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