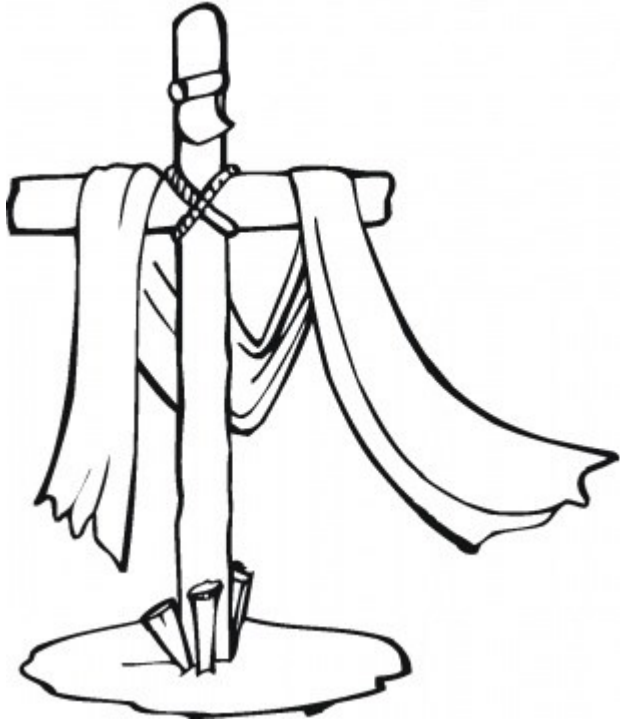


St. Thomas Reformed Church



St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands
Founded 1660

April 2, 2021
7:00 pm

All are Welcome
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Tenebrae

“A Service of Shadows”

Tenebrae, which is a Latin word meaning "shadows" or "darkness", has been observed in the church of Jesus Christ since the fourth century. Tonight we join with the Christian church of all ages to recall the Passion of our Lord. The gradual extinguishing of the candles will be accompanied by hymns, choral anthems, and readings from Scripture. You are invited to contemplate the cross of Christ and the wondrous gift given to us by our gracious and loving God.

(Please remain seated for the singing of the hymns tonight)

Prelude Music

Call To Worship *from Isaiah 53:1-3*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

The Light has come into the world.

But the world loved darkness rather than light.

Come, let us worship the Lord, who was obedient even to death on a cross.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Choral Introit **“I Stand Amazed”**

arr. McDonald

I stand amazed at the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene
And wonder how He could love me
A sinner, condemned, unclean
For me it was in the garden

He prayed, “Not My will, but Thine”
He had no tears for his own griefs
But shed drops of blood for mine

How marvelous, how wonderful
My song shall ever be
How marvelous, how wonderful
My Savior’s love for me

He took my sins and my sorrows
And made them His very own
He bore the burden to Calvary
And suffered and died alone

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see
‘Twill be my song through the ages
To sing of His love for me

The Light of Christ

Hymn

‘Beneath the Cross of Jesus’

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would 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

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness

I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place
I ask no other sunshine
Than the sunshine of His 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

THE DARKNESS DESCENDS

Scripture John 11: 45 - 53

Hymn

‘Lamb of God’

Paris

Your only Son, no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Your gift of love we crucified
We laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King we named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

Chorus

Oh, Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh, wash me in His precious love
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

I was so lost, I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God (*chorus*)

THE SHADOW OF DARKNESS

Scripture Matthew 26: 36 - 46

Hymn 'What Wondrous Love Is This'

APPALACHIAN FOLK HYMN

What wondrous love is this
O my soul, O my soul
What wondrous love is this
O my soul
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul
For my soul
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul

When I was sinking down
Sinking down, sinking down
When I was sinking down
Sinking down

When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul
For my soul
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul

The first light is extinguished

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Scripture Matthew 26: 47 - 56

Song "Divine Exchange"

Moen

O, see the man of sorrow
See the Son of God
Stripped of heaven's glory
In the name of relentless love
Pure and undeserved
Sure as Calvary
Weighed upon His shoulders
All our grief, our iniquity

Alleluia, Alleluia
Praise be to God, Alleluia

O, hear the scoffer mocking
See the Savior's tears
Wounded and forsaken
Son of Man, oh behold Him here
In the stead of failing
Burdened by despair
It was more than nails
Love alone is what kept Him there

O, for the joy before Him
He was crucified
And the grave defeated
Through His death, He has ransomed life
For the crippled sinner
And His stripes for pain
Every curse now broken
We receive this divine exchange

The second light is extinguished

THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

Scripture Matthew 26: 69 - 75

Hymn

'My Jesus, I Love Thee'

GORDON

My Jesus, I love Thee
I know Thou art mine
For Thee, all the follies
Of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer
My savior art Thou
If ever I loved Thee
My Jesus, 'tis now

I love Thee because Thou
Hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon
On Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing
The thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee
My Jesus, 'tis now

The third light is extinguished

THE SHADOW OF PERSECUTION

Scripture Luke 22: 63 - 23: 12

Hymn 'O Sacred Head, Now Wounded' *PASSION CHORALE*

O sacred Head, now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown
How pale Thou art with anguish
With sore abuse and scorn
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn

What thou, O Christ, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain
Mine, mine was the transgression
But thine the deadly pain
Lo, here I fall, my Savior
'Tis I deserve thy place
Look on me with thy favor
And grant to me thy grace

What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest Friend
For this, thy dying sorrow
Thy pity without end
O, make me thine forever
And should I fainting be
O, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee

The fourth light is extinguished

THE SHADOW OF INJUSTICE

Scripture Luke 23: 13 - 25

Solo

“Via Dolorosa”

Borop/Sprague

Andrea Lee

**Down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem that day
The soldiers tried to clear the narrow street
But the crowd pressed in to see
The man condemned to die on Calvary
He was bleeding from a beating
There were stripes upon His back
And He wore a crown of thorns upon His head
And He bore with every step
The scorn of those who cried out for His death**

**Down the Via Dolorosa, called the way of suffering
Like a lamb came the Messiah, Christ the King
But He chose to walk that road out of
His love for you and me
Down the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary**

**The blood that would cleanse the souls of all men
Made its way to the heart of Jerusalem
Down the Via Dolorosa, called the way of suffering
Like a lamb came the Messiah, Christ the King
But He chose to walk that road
Out of His love for you and me
Down the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary**

The fifth light is extinguished

THE SHADOW OF MISUNDERSTANDING

Scripture Luke 23:32-43

Hymn 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' HAMBURG

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all**

The sixth light is extinguished

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Scripture John 19: 28 - 30

Solo "Were You There?" *Spiritual*
Dr. Ronald Nimmo, soloist

The seventh light is extinguished

***The Christ candle is removed for a time,
symbolizing Christ's three days in the tomb.***

The Bell Tolls

*The bell will toll once for each year of our Lord's earthly life.
The light then returns and casts its light into the sanctuary,
showing that the Light of the World can never be extinguished.*

Choral Response "How Deep the Love of God for Us"

Townend

Lori Abbotts, Grace King, Andrea Lee

**How deep the love of God for us
How vast beyond all measure
To sacrifice Your only Son
To make of us Your treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
Our Maker turns and looks away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring all of us to glory**

**Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished**

**I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection**

**Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom**

You are invited to sit and contemplate the cross of Christ, each person mindful of his or her responsibility to share the Good News of God's love with the world. The sanctuary will remain open for a time, available for personal silent prayer and reflection.

Depart in Silence...



Thank you to all who helped lead in worship tonight:

Pastor: Jeffrey Neevel

Minister of Music and Arts: Chanelle Schaffer

Scripture reader: Dr. Ronald Nimmo

Liturgical elements: Rev. Rebecca Broom

Virtual Choir: Geoffrey Barnard, David & Amy Himes, Andrea Lee, Dr. Steven Mange, Tama McConnell, Fred & Julie Northup, Laura Strickling, Bonnie Troutman, Penny Woods

Soloists: Grace King, Andrea Lee, Dr. Ronald Nimmo

Livestream Dream Team: James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton

Lighting: Dave Whitter