

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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**We Worship, We Love, We Serve
– No Matter What!**

**April 18, 2025
Good Friday, Service of Tenebrae
7pm**

*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Tonight, as we enter our sanctuary, the cross, altar and remaining symbols are draped in black as the darkness covered the earth and the disciples' hopes.

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Robert Kuntz, Violin and Audrey Simmons, Cello

Welcome

Rev. Steve Davis

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: All you who pass this way

All: May we look and see the shadow of sin.

One: All you who pass this way

All: May we look and see the weight of the world.

One: All you who pass this way

All: May we look and see the suffering of our Savior.

One: All you who pass this way

All: May we look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.

One: Behold, the Lamb of God:

All: Who takes away the sins of the world.

***Opening Hymn**

Were You There?

Verses 1, 2, and 4

hymn found on page 2 of the bulletin

WERE YOU THERE

WERE YOU THERE
Arranged by Tom Booth



- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? | Were you |
| 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? | Were you |
| 3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side? | Were you |
| 4. Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine? | Were you |
| 5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? | Were you |
| 6. Were you there when he rose up from the grave? | Were you |



- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? | Oh! |
| 2. there when they nailed him to the tree? | Oh! |
| 3. there when they pierced him in the side? | Oh! |
| 4. there when the sun re - fused to shine? | Oh! |
| 5. there when they laid him in the tomb? | Oh! |
| 6. there when he rose up from the grave? | Oh! |



1-6. Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



- | |
|--|
| 1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? |
| 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? |
| 3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side? |
| 4. Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine? |
| 5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? |
| 6. Were you there when he rose up from the grave? |

Text: 10 10 14 10; Spiritual; Old Plantation Hymns, Boston, 1899.

Music: Spiritual; *Old Plantation Hymns*, Boston, 1899; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

*A Good Friday Prayer

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: O Lord, we are gathered together here this day as your people, as those who have been called out of darkness into your marvelous light.

All: **We are here only because you have loved us and been faithful across the generations that we might be your people. And yet we quickly confess that we are not worthy of that love.**

One: As we contemplate the Cross and what it means, we are filled with joy and wonder at the sacrifice that Jesus has made to show us light in the darkness and offer us life in the midst of death.

All: We confess that we have nothing to offer in return for that sacrifice, nothing that will match such love. We know that only love can respond to such a gift. Yet we know that we are not always loving or lovable. But you remain steadfastly faithful to us. You love us even when we are not lovable, and remain steadfast in your grace that calls us to follow the example of Jesus who is the Christ.

One: We are committed to that journey, to be followers of the One who has given so much that we might be sons and daughters of God. But sometimes the journey that we take in following Jesus who is the Christ is not all light and joy. Sometimes the Way is rough and dimly lit. Sometimes the darkness of life threatens to engulf the light.

All: And so we cry out to you, O Lord. Forgive us for our sometimes faltering steps. Shine anew the light of your presence into our lives so strongly that a new love for you will be kindled. Grow within us a love that is willing to surrender all our fears and uncertainties to you, that desires nothing more than to love God with all our being and to love those around us with the same faithfulness with which you love us.

One: Now, as we begin this journey of the Cross, we open our hearts and minds to you. We lay aside for these moments the trivialities of our life and bring ourselves into your presence. Speak to us what we need to hear. And help us to hear, not just the words that are spoken, but your Word spoken afresh in our hearts.

All: Speak, for your servants are listening.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

One: Let us begin our journey.

Introduction to Tenebrae

Reader: Sean Hartman

The Shadow of Betrayal

Mark 14: 32-42

Reader: Sean Hartman

Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, ‘Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?’ So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.’ They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, ‘Surely, not I?’ He said to them, ‘It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.’

Choral Response

Stay with Me
Heather Sorenson

*“Stay with Me, oh, stay with Me. Linger, linger,” I hear the Savior plead.
Stay with Me, oh, stay with Me. Linger, linger, I hear the Savior plead.*

“Stay.” Hear the anguish as He prays, “Stay,” Can he feel the nails and crown, Savior of the world bowed down?

Can you not hear Him weeping? Can you not hear Him groan? “Stay with Me.” Yet still we lie here sleeping while Jesus grieves alone. Oh, stay with Me. Stay with Me. Stay with Me. Stay with Me. Oh, stay with Me. Hear the Savior weep.

The first Candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit and Arrest *Mark 14: 32-42*
Reader: Sean Hartman

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’ Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.’ [[Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?’

Choral Response

Dark Gethsemane
Jay Rouse

Go to dark Gethsemane. You that feel the tempter’s power; your Redeemer’s conflict see; watch with Him one bitter hour; turn not from His griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgement hall; view the Lord of life arraigned; O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained! Shun not suffering shame, or loos; learn of Him to bear the cross.

Calvary’s mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet, mark the miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete: “It is finished!” hear Him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Go to dark Gethsemane.

The second Candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Denial

Luke 22:54-62

Reader: Sean Hartman

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Choral Response

Father, Forgive
Lee Dengler

O Father, forgive our sins. We are helpless. We have lost our way. O Father, forgive our sins. In your mercy, save us! Hear our cry!

On a cross of grief and pain, Jesus suffered for our shame. Such amazing love he showed. What a debt to him we owe.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison, eleison. (O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, have mercy. Have mercy upon us.)

O Father, forgive our sins. In Your mercy save us! Hear our cry!

The third Candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Accusation and Mockery

Mark 15: 1-15

Reader: Sean Hartman

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the

chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, ‘Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.’ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, ‘Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, ‘Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?’ They shouted back, ‘Crucify him!’ Pilate asked them, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Crucify him!’ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, 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.

Choral Response

God So Loved
Mary McDonald

God so loved the world; God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. They shall have life, everlasting life!

God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Whoever believes is not condemned, but whoever believeth not in the Son of God is condemned to die, to die.

God so loved the world. God so loved the world. God so loved.

*Hymn with Congregation

A Purple Robe, A Crown of Thorns

Timothy Dudley Smith

$\text{♩} = 110$



1. A pur - ple robe a crown of thorn a reed in his right hand. Be -
2. He hangs by whom the world was made Be - neath the dark-ened sky. The

6

1. fore the sol-diers spite and scorn I see my Sav - ior stand. He bears be-tween the
2. ev - er - last - ing ran som paid I see my Sav - ior die. He shares on high his

11

1. Ro - man guard the weight of all our woe; A stum-bling fi - gure
2. Fa - ther's throne who once in mer - cy came; for all his lo - ve to

15

1. bowed and scarred I see my Sav - ior go.
2. sin - ners shown I sing my Sav - ior's name.

The fourth Candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Mark 15: 16-32

Reader: Sean Hartman

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, ‘If you are the

King of the Jews, save yourself!’ There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

Choral Response

Echoes of Golgotha
Patti Drennan

Soloist: Jeffrey Purdon

From the hillside of Golgotha, Jesus is heard. The echoes still linger, bringing His dying words. All of time cannot silence the words of that day. The echoes still linger, ever here to stay.

Father, forgive them. Father, forgive. Father, Father, it is finished!”

Hear the words of the angry crowd, “Crucify!” they cry, the echoes still linger, hear His final sigh. To Remember the Savior who died to set me free, May the gift of forgiveness ever be with me.

Father, forgive them. Father, forgive. Father, Father, it is finished!”

The fifth Candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Death

Mark 15: 33-41
Reader: Sean Hartman

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘Listen, he is calling for Elijah.’ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.’ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the

curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!

Choral Response

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Dan Forrest

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.

Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, Hid hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow down. Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, Were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Demands my soul, my life, my all.

The sixth Candle is extinguished

Sermon

Rev. Davis

If God Is Love: "Forgiven"

The Shadow of Burial

Mark 15: 42-46

Reader: Sean Hartman

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Choral Response

Were We There
Craig Courtney

Were we there, you and I, in the olive grove that night? Was there silver in my hand to betray the Son of Man? Did you run away and hide? In your fear, did you deny? Were we there, were we there, you and I?

Were we there, you and I, boldly crying “crucify?” Did you mock Him with your scorn? Did I weave the crown of thorns? Did you strike Him in the face, spit on Him in His disgrace? Were we there, were we there, you and I?

Were we there, you and I, on that hill the day he died? Did you watch without a sound when they brought the hammer down? Did I turn to look away from His suffering and pain? Were we there? Were we There?

Were you there? Was I, too, on that morning at the tomb? When we looked into His face, did we know He took our place? Yes He died for us as though we were there so long ago. We were there.

The seventh Candle is extinguished.

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Sung Response

Jesus, Remember Me
Choir and Congregation

found on page 12

Jesus, Remember Me

Ostinato Refrain

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in-to your King-dom.

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in-to your King-dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community, 1981
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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*Closing Hymn

O Sacred Head Surrounded
All Verses

found on page 13 of the bulletin

*Benediction and Removal of the Christ Candle

Rev. Davis

Tonight, we depart the sanctuary in silence.

*You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for a time of
prayer and quiet reflection following the service.*

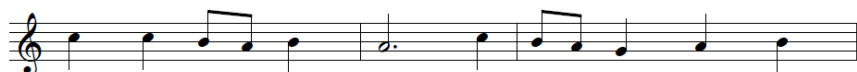
O Sacred Head Surrounded



1. O Sa - cred Head sur-round - ed By crown of pierc - ing
 2. I see your strength and vig - or All fad - ing in the
 3. In this, your bit - ter pas - sion, Good Shep-herd, think of



thorn! O bleed - ing Head, so wound - ed, Re -
 strife, And death with cru - el rig - or, Be -
 me With your most sweet com - pas - sion, Un -



viled and put to scorn! The pow'r of death comes
 reav - ing you of life; O ag - o - ny and
 worth - y though I be: Be - neath your cross a -



o'er you, The glow of life de - cays, Yet
 dy - ing! O love to sin - ners free! Je -
 bid - ing For ev - er would I rest, In



an - gel hosts a - dore you, And trem - ble as they gaze.
 sus, all grace sup - ply - ing, O turn your face on me.
 your dear love con - fid - ing, And with your pres - ence blest.

Text: *Salve caput cruciatum*; ascr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. by Henry Baker, 1821-1877
 Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

A word of thanks to Robert Kuntz, our Violinist this evening, in addition to Audrey Simmons, our Cellist, for sharing their musical talents with us this evening and enhancing our service.

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Serving in Worship Leadership

Good Friday, April 18th

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 and John 18:1-19:42

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader: Sean Hartman

Greeters: Amy Feidler

Ushers: Kim Hillegass and

Wayne Lichtenwalner

Worship Tech: Bill Castello

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