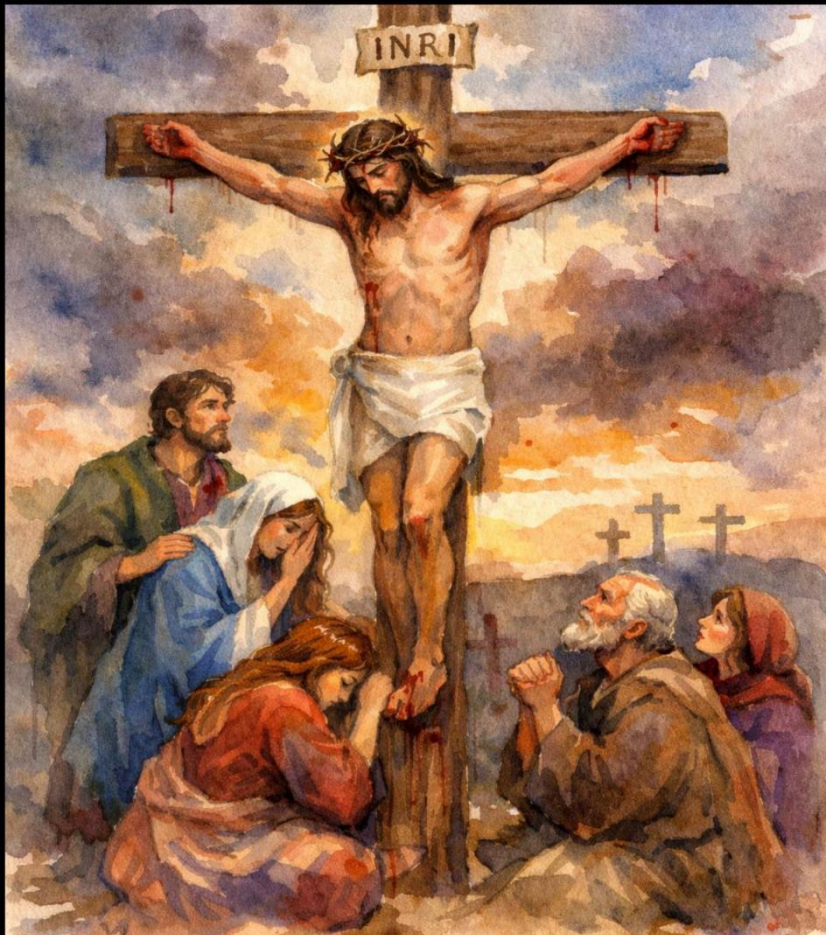


St. John's UCC, Fullerton



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Tenebrae Service of Shadows



Good Friday, April 3, 2026 - 7:00pm

Combined Worship of St. John's Mickleys and St. John's Fullerton
Hosted at St. John's UCC, Fullerton
575 Grape Street Whitehall, PA 18052

*** 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.*

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Welcome *Rev. Steven Davis & Rev. Virginia Schlegel*

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

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Lighting of the Tenebrae Candles *The Hanging Tree*
From "The Hunger Games"
Featuring Violinist: Stephani Bell and Cellist: Audrey Simmons

***Call to Worship** Lead by Rev. Virginia Schlegel

One: We gather at the foot of the cross, bearing our sorrow, our
questions, and our hope.

All: We come to behold the love that would not let us go.

One: Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what
they are doing." From suffering, mercy is spoken.

**All: God of grace, we receive your forgiveness, and we
commit ourselves to lives of mercy and justice.**

One: Jesus said, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Hope is
spoken to one who had been forgotten.

**All: We trust your promise, O Christ, that no one is beyond
your redeeming love.**

One: Jesus said, "Woman, here is your son... Here is your
mother." At the cross, a new community is formed.

**All: Shape us into a people of compassion, committed to love,
care, and shared life.**

One: Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken
me?" God enters fully into human pain and doubt.

**All: When we feel abandoned or broken, hold us in your
steadfast love, O God.**

One: Jesus said, "I thirst." The depth of human need is revealed.

All: Stir our hearts to respond to the thirst of the world for justice, dignity, and peace.

One: Jesus said, "It is finished." Love is poured out completely.

All: We stand in awe of your self-giving love, and we give thanks for grace freely given.

One: Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." With trust, his life is surrendered.

All: Into your hands, O God, we place our lives, our deaths, and our hope.

One: Come, let us worship with reverence and truth, remembering the cross and the love revealed there.

All: We worship you, O Christ, crucified by the world, faithful to love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: WR # 283**

Were You There?
All Verses

Introduction to Tenebrae

The First Shadow

Prayer in the Garden

John 17: 1-26

Narrator: Samantha Kistler

Jesus looking up to Heaven said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are

yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

“I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

Choral Response

Alone He Prays—Joel Raney

Through the daylight hours fragrant flowers bloom, in the olive orchard emitting sweet perfume, but on this night of malice kneeling 'mid the stones, Jesus prays with passion, in agony alone.

Peaceful walls of roses blossom neath the sun, while near the stony staircase climbing grapevines run, but in the darkest hours upon this night of hate, pleasing with his Father, the Lord awaits his fate.

Alone he prays, alone he prays. Upon this night of hate, the Lord awaits his fate, alone.

Stream and hedge and love are thriving there by day, calling to the weary to come, and rest, and pray, but underneath the clouds no moonlight finds the sky as on this night of treason the Lord prepares to die!

Alone he prays, alone he prays. Upon this night of hate, the Lord awaits his fate, alone he prays, alone he prays. Upon this night of hate, the Lord awaits his fate, alone, alone.

The First Candle is Extinguished

The Second Shadow

The Arrest

John 18: 1-18

Narrators: Brenda Ringer and Sean Hartman

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, “You are not also

one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Choral Response

Wondrous Love, O My Soul
Mary McDonald

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this. What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, will sing! To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I Am", while millions join the theme, I will sing! I will sing!

And when from death, I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And when from death, I'm free, I'll sing on, sing on. And when from death, I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be; and through eternity, I'll sing on! I'll sing on! I'll sing on!

The Second Candle is extinguished.

The Third Shadow

Truth

John 18: 19-27

Narrators: Sharon Czekner and George Isleib

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

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.

Psalm 22

Lead by: Samantha Kistler

One: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

All: **O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

One: But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads.

All: **“For he committed his cause to the Lord; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!” Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.**

One: My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws. They divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

All: **Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him. For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;**

One: He did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him.

All: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. They shall proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The Fourth Shadow

Kingdom

John 18: 28-40

Narrators: Brenda Ringer and Sean Hartman

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!"

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.

The Fourth Candle is extinguished.

The Fifth Shadow

Mockery

John 19: 1-15

Narrators: Sharon Czekner and George Isleib

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out,

“Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

Choral Response

Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs

Victor Johnson

Surely, surely, surely, surely, He hath borne our griefs. Surely, surely, surely, surely, He hath borne our griefs and carried out sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes and with his stripes we are healed.

Surely, surely, surely, surely, He hath borne our griefs. Surely, surely, surely, surely, He hath borne our griefs and carried out sorrows.

The Fifth Candle is extinguished.

A Prayer for Good Friday

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we stand in the shadows of this night and see ourselves in every face around Your trial.

All: We are Peter, denying when courage fails. We are the crowd, swayed by fear and noise. We are Pilate, washing our hands of costly truth.

One: Yet still You stand before us —silent in accusation, steadfast in love, choosing the cross we deserved.

All: Search our hearts, O God. Where we cling to comfort, unsettle us. Where we avoid truth, confront us. Where we deny You by silence or compromise, forgive us.

One: Teach us to follow You not only in word, but in surrender; not only in worship, but in obedience; not only in light, but through darkness.

All: May the cross break our pride, soften our hearts, and remake us in Your mercy. Crucified Lord, hear this our prayer we pray. Amen.

The Sixth Shadow

The Crucified King

John 19: 16-27

Narrators: Brenda Ringer and Sean Hartman

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”

Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

*“They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”*

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Choral Response

Silent Tears—Craig Courtney
Soloist: Julie Mertus

She was silent, not a word, only tears would speak for her. Though her heart was surely broken, silent tears are all that’s spoken, silent tears are all that’s spoken.

She recalls her tears of joy: Bethlehem, her precious boy. Love was born to bring us life, now silent tears behold His strife, now silent tears behold His strife.

One tear flows and then another, One from the Son, and then the mother, they drop together to the ground, into the dust without a sound , into the dust without a sound. She stood and watched her Son defiled. She stood and heard the angry crowd. No words of hate, revenge or gall, Her silent years would say it all, her silent years would say it all.

She was silent, not a word. Her aching heart could not be heard. Only tears, silent tears, only tears, silent tears, only tears, silent tears.

The Sixth Candle is extinguished

The Seventh Shadow

Death and Burial

John 19: 28-42

Narrators: Sharon Czekner and George Isleib

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth, so that you also may continue to believe.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

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

When I Survey
Marianne Foreman

*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, 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 Seventh Candle is extinguished.

Sermon

Rev. Davis

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis & Rev. Schlegel

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**

Closing Hymn

O Sacred Head Surrounded
All Verses

found on page 13

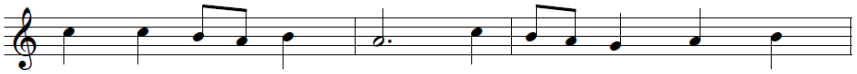
O Sacred Head Surrounded



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 orientatum*; 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

Benediction and Removal of the Christ Candle

Rev. Davis and Rev. Schlegel

Tonight, we depart the sanctuary in silence.

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

A word of thanks to Stephani Bell, our Violinist and Audrey Simmons, our Cellist this evening, for sharing their musical talents and enhancing our Tenebrae service.

Serving in Worship Leadership

*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*

Pastors: Rev. Steven Davis, Senior Pastor at St. John's UCC Fullerton
Rev. Virginia Schlegel, Pastor at St. John's UCC Mickleys

Narrators: Samantha Kistler Sean Hartman
 Brenda Ringer Sharon Czekner
 George Isleib

Worship Tech: Bill Castello Greeter: Kim Hillegass
Ushers: Linda Powell and Wayne Lichtenwalner

Easter Sunday

*Join us on Sunday, April 5th beginning at 9:30am
for our Easter Sunday Resurrection Celebration
with the flowering of the Easter Cross
and the Sacrament of Communion.*