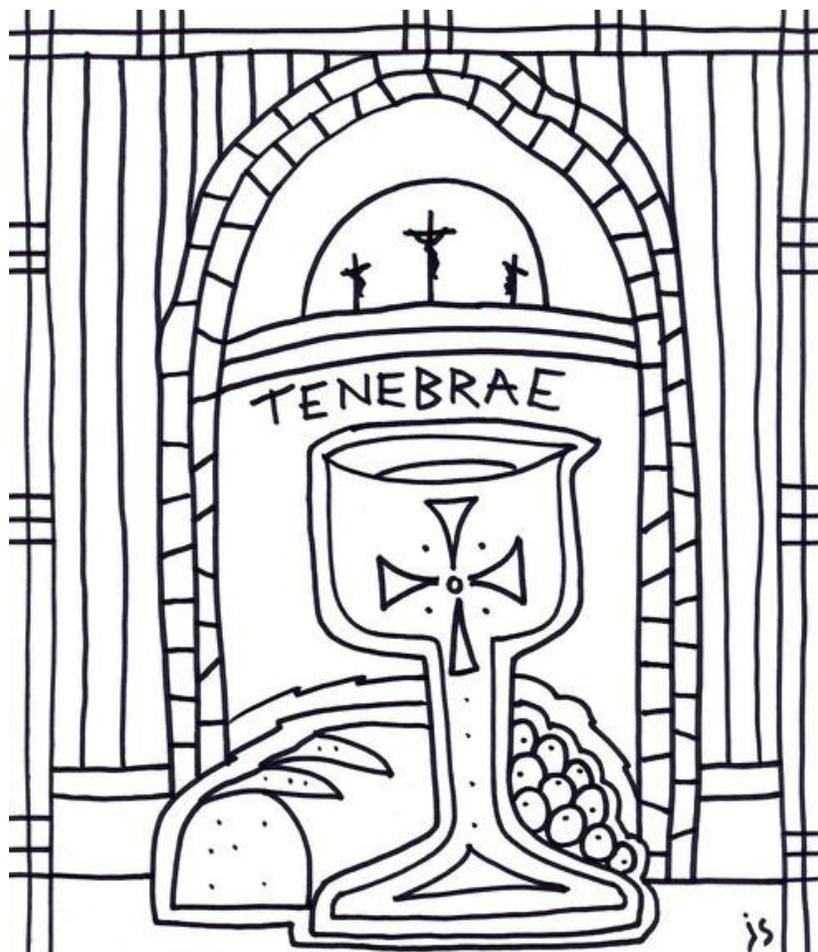


Maundy Thursday Worship

SHADOWS: A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Music by Douglas E. Wagner



Westminster Presbyterian Church

April 17, 2025

7:00 pm

WELCOME

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

One: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,

All: And we loved darkness rather than light.

◆ INVOCATION

◆ CONGREGATIONAL HYMN An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

**An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he loved until the end:
And his disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.**

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.**

**And after supper he washed their feet, for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER

◆ CONGREGATIONAL HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus

**Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,
that we to judge you have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, has undone you!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;
I crucified you.**

THE WATCH

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 26:36-45

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." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." And 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 again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

CHORAL MEDITATION

Is It I, Lord?

*Is it I, Lord, is it I?
Is it I who could not wait and watch this night?
No comfort I take, no excuse I dare now make,
for I know that my heart has been untrue.*

*Is it I, Lord, is it I?
Is it I who will betray and then deny?
I walk in despair with the weight of shame I bear,
for O Lord, by my sins you're crucified.*

*It is I, Lord, it is I.
It is I who silent stand when foes deride.
Your tears I did not dry, heard you not when you cried,
in the garden as you prayed alone.*

It is I Lord, it is I.

(The first candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 51:1-3, 5-6, 10-11

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

All: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

One: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

All: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

THE BETRAYAL

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great 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; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut 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 should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

CHORAL MEDITATION

They Took My Lord Away

*In the garden, by the moonlight, where he went alone to pray,
came a horde of angry people, and they took my Lord away.
Have mercy, O God. Be not far from me, my Lord.
Heal me, O God. Go not far from me, O God.*

*Silent still we stood and watched as his own betrayed him there,
full of shame and heavy burdened with the deepening guilt we share.
Be not far from me, my Lord.
Go not far from me, O God.*

(The second candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 6:1-2, 5, 9

One: O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath.
All: **Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.**
One: For in death there is no remembrance of you;
in Sheol who will give you praise?
One: **The LORD has heard my plea;
the LORD accepts my prayer.**

THE DENIAL

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 26:57-75

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus 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 man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, 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 robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And 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 too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

CHORAL MEDITATION

In Darkness Do I Wander

*In darkness do I wander, alone and filled with grief,
blinded by my selfish pity, crippled by my unbelief.
Help me, Lord, to know forgiveness for the weight of sin I bear.
Keep me close to you, Lord Jesus, in your safe and loving care.*

*In darkness do I wander, inconsolable I roam,
a sheep strayed from its shepherd, a sinner far from home.
Be the light that guides my footsteps. Be my strength when flesh is weak.
Be the everlasting mercy, Lord, my refuge and retreat.*

In darkness I wander alone.

(The third candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 102:1-2, 11-12

One Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you!
All: **Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress!**
Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I call!

One: My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.
All: **But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;**
you are remembered throughout all generations.

THE GUILT

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 27:1-5

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.**

Refrain:

**I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome; God's free bounty glorify,
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. (Refrain)**

**Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. (Refrain)**

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 32:1-2, 7, 10

One: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

All: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

One: You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

All: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

THE JUDGMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 23:12-25

And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him."

But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

CHORAL MEDITATION

Who Could Have Imagined?

*Who could have imagined? Who could have foretold?
Who would dare believe what has come to pass,
that the Lord of all creation, the God of our salvation,
was convicted unjustly, and sent to death?*

*And we who stood by shouting 'crucify!'
knowing not that for our sins he goes to die,
joined with voices of the throng to commit this dreadful wrong,
and they led my Lord away to Calvary.*

*Who could have imagined? Who could have foretold?
Who would dare believe what has come to pass,
that the Lord of all creation, the God of our salvation,
was convicted unjustly, and sent to death?
And they led my Lord away to Calvary.*

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 143:1-2, 9-10

One: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

All: **Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

One: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge.

All: **Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

THE CRUCIFIXION

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 23:26-34

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

CHORAL MEDITATION

But Morning Never Came

*Darkness and utter silence fell upon the earth that day,
when to Calvary's awful mountain my Lord was led away.
Then upon that peak they nailed him to a crude and cruel frame.
And the people stood and waited, but morning never came.*

*Dwelling in lasting midnight, the gathered throng was still,
keeping watch and constant vigil upon the holy hill.
Yearning for the light of dawning, feeling full the heavy blame,
there the people stood and waited, but morning never came.*

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 38:1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 21

One: O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath!

All: **For my iniquities have gone over my head;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.**

One: I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all the day I go about mourning.

All: **I am feeble and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.**

One: My heart throbs; my strength fails me,
and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

All: **Do not forsake me, O LORD!
O my God, be not far from me!**

THE COMMENDATION

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 23:39-47

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? 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 justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

CHORAL MEDITATION

Into God's Hands

*Into God's hands we commend our spirits, into God's hands we place our lives.
Into God's hands we commend our spirits, into God's hands we place our lives.*

*And when at last we come to judgment, may choirs of angels lead us home
into paradise reopened, God's holy city, Jerusalem.*

*Into God's hands we commend our spirits, into God's hands we place our lives.
Into God's hands we commend our spirits, into God's hands we place our lives.
May choirs of angels lead us home.*

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 130

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

All: **If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,**

O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

One: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

All: **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD!**

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

For me, kind Jesus, was your incarnation,
your mortal sorrow, and your life's oblation;
your death of anguish and your bitter passion, for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay you,
I do adore you, and will ever pray you,
think on your pity and your love unswerving, not my deserving.

(The Christ candle is extinguished.)

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

SILENT MEDITATION

(The congregation departs in silence.)

The service continues on Good Friday at noon.

◆ *Those who are able, please stand*

ABOUT TENEBRAE. Tenebrae, or “service of darkness,” dates back to the 4th century. It focuses on the final hours of Jesus’ life and crucifixion. As the story progresses, the candles are extinguished, the darkness falls, and we are reminded of the suffering and death of the one who is “the light of the world.” (John 8:12)

ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER. All who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share in the bread and the cup. We'll receive the sacrament by intinction, coming to the table, taking a piece of pre-cut bread and dipping it in the cup. WPC is a safe place for those in recovery- we serve grape juice only. Gluten free communion cups are available; indicate your preference at the table. Children are invited to the table provided they've had instruction at home or in Westminster's worship prep class (1st grade).

Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor
Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate
Sarah Shayban, Director of Music

Musicians:

Angie Loizides, violin Cyle Tang, viola
Ava Whitener, violin Cameron Williams, cello

Acolyte:

Matthew Smoak

Readers:

Jodie Almeida, Andrew Hopkins,
Susanna Hopkins, Katie Griggs,
Sara Dwyer, Tim Fox, Priscilla Holtzclaw