

*Plymouth Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Plymouth, New Hampshire*

*Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae  
April 6, 2023, 7 pm*



*The service of Tenebrae (from the Latin word for shadows) is an ancient ritual commemorating Jesus' final hours. As scripture is read, candles are extinguished until the sanctuary is left in darkness.*

*The candles represent the twelve disciples who, each in their own way, betrayed, denied, or abandoned their teacher and leader. The Christ candle at the center of the table symbolizes the presence of Christ, even in the darkest of times.*

**Prelude**

Go to Dark Gesthemane

Richard Redhead

## **Opening Words**

### **Litany for Maundy Thursday**

Leader: Are you prepared to come to the feast of Jesus? That is – our Savior,  
who came and offered us a path.

**People: By the grace of God, we are.**

Leader: Are you able to watch with Jesus at prayer in the garden, to struggle with  
him to accept God's will for your life?

**People: We are unsure. The cost seems very great.**

Leader: Let us come tonight to encounter the Spirit of God, who loves us freely  
and without condition. Let us come to face the shadows within us and in  
our world, and to pray for resurrection light.

**People: We come unready and yet our hearts are open.**

## **Silent Confession**

### **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

\*\*We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

\*those who are able may rise as they are led

**\*Hymn**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

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## **Reflections on Maundy Thursday**

Rev. Holland



### **Candles VII & VIII:**

Matt. 27:20-24 – Steve Majeski

Mark 15:16-20 – Kathy Henning

**Anthem**

Look to Jesus

Aaron David Miller

### **Candles IX & X: The Crucifixion**

Mark 15:27-32 – Roger Boyer

Mark 15:33-34 – Bill Torrey

### **Time for Silent Reflection**

### **Candles XI & XII:**

John 19:28-30 – Rebecca Larson

John 1:1-5 – Rev. Sam Holland

### **Parting Hymn**

*Were You There?* (Please remain seated)

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

### **Silence in the Darkness**

### **The Christ Candle Burns in Hope**

***Please leave the sanctuary in silence***

*Many thanks to our readers, choir, volunteers, and staff this evening. We hope that all carry God's love into the shadows of the night.*