# 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.

# **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

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

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

\*Hymn What Wondrous Love is This

NCH (black) #223

# Reflections on Maundy Thursday

Rev. Holland

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

### **Holy Communion**

Invitation to the Table Communion Prayer Words of Institution Sharing Communion

The Ushers will guide twelve participants at a time to the front to share Communion. Each person will be given a simple bread and juice cup as Pastor Sara offers simple words of blessing: "This is the bread of heaven and the cup of the new covenant." After each participant receives the elements, the group of 12 will take and eat. You will then be invited to return to your seats and the next group of twelve will take your place.

\*The bread is gluten & nut free and the juice is non-alcoholic.\*

#### **Communion Music**

# Prayer of Thanks in Unison

Holy One, by coming to your table, we receive from your great abundance. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us, we pray, so that we may serve as Christ served. Amen.

## Service of Tenebrae

\*Hymn

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

NCH (black) #226

Candles I & II:

Matt. 26:20-25 - Ann Thurston

Matt. 26:31-35 — Georgene Fabian

Anthem

Wondrous Love

Eric H. Thiman

Candles III & IV:

Mark 14:32-41 – Wayne Martin

Matt. 26:47-52 – Donna Castor

\*Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

NCH (black) #218

Candles V & VI:

Luke 22:54-62 – Bill Heron

John 18:33-38a – Linda LaPrad

Piano Interlude

Ah, Holy Jesus

Johann Heermann & Johann Cruger

#### 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.