

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

*Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae
March 28, 2024: 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

Sarabande in D minor

J.S. Bach

Opening Words

Rev. Ruth Martz

***Litany**

Liturgist—Rev. Rebecca Larson

Leader: Are you prepared to come to the feast of Jesus?

Are you willing to follow him, even when we do not know
where the path may lead?

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 and accept God's call to serve?

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.

***Hymn**

What Wondrous Love is This

NCH (black) #223

Prayer of Confession

One: Hold us close, patient God.

People: We see our own failures mirrored in the Passion story.

One: We know we betray the trust given to us.

We avoid what makes us uncomfortable.

People: We deny your love

when we keep our talents to ourselves,
when we are too busy to *be still and know you*;
when we look to others to lead the way.

One: We are anxious about the costliness of following you.

People: Loving God, hold us close,

so that we may confront evil,
care for those who are in pain, and
rejoice in your stronger-than-death love.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Reflection

Rev. Ruth Martz

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer and Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

Revs. Martz & Morrison

The Ushers will guide participants to the front to share Communion. You will be given bread to dip in the cup as words of blessing are spoken: "This is the bread of life and the cup of the new covenant." After partaking, you may return to your seats.

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

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and merciful God, by coming to your table
we receive more gifts than we can ever comprehend.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life
and in whom we are bound in covenant.

Renew us so we may willingly serve as Christ intended. Amen.

Service of Tenebrae

*Hymn

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

NCH (black) #226

Candles I & II:

Matt. 26:20-25 – Deb Boyer

Matt. 26:31-35 — Anna Boyer

Anthem

O Lord, We Praise Thee

Matthew Machermer

Candles III & IV:

Mark 14:32-41 – Fran Taylor

Matt. 26:47-52 – Donna Castor

***Hymn**

Ab, Holy Jesus
Verses 1 & 2

NCH (black) #218

Candles V & VI:

Luke 22:54-62 – Bill Heron
John 18:33-38a – Steve Majeski

Candles VII & VIII:

Matt. 27:20-24 – Julie Kelsey
Mark 15:16-20 – Marilyn Wixson

***Hymn**

Ab, Holy Jesus
Verses 3 & 4

Candles IX & X: The Crucifixion

Mark 15:27-32 – Alison Thatcher
Mark 15:33-34 – Lynn Morrison

Time of Silence

Candles XI & XII:

John 19:28-30 – Rebecca Larson
John 1:1-5 – Ruth Martz

Parting Hymn

Were You There?

PH (red) #179

The Christ Candle is extinguished (Silence in the Darkness)
The Christ Candle is relit and burns in Hope

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Blessing

Stripping of the Altar

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.