

PETER'S DENIAL
PONTIUS PILATE
Choir: *Calvary* (verse 5)

Matthew 26: 69-75
Mark 15:1-3, 6, 8, 12-15

Mmm...

THE CROWN OF THORNS

Mark 15:16-20, 22, 24a

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

MOMENTS OF SILENT MEDITATION

THE RE-LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SILENT DEPARTURE

A note about the readings: Tonight's readings can be hard to hear, not only because they detail the suffering of Jesus, but also because they sound anti-Semitic, in that the death of Jesus is blamed, at least in part, on some of the religious leaders and "the crowd," most of whom were Jewish. It is important to state and remember that being Jewish is not what these readings condemn--Jesus himself and all of the disciples were Jews. What is *condemned* in these readings is the sin of closing our hearts to the Love of God, which is something we all do at times. Let us remember that our entire Bible—both Old and New Testaments—attests to the undying love of God for the people of Israel.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE

Readers: Teresa Cader, Andy Gallop, Maria Fernando, Lisa Loughlin
David Peretti, Wendy Procops, Tom Roche, Jena Roy, and Jennifer Wilson

Lights: Tyler Campbell and Barry McArdle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC

21 Church Street Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180

An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Congregation, Ministers to The World

Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor

Rev. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor

Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Cong'l Health & Wellness

Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth

Sarah Marino, Office Manager

Bradley Ross, Sexton

Tyler Campbell, Assistant Sexton

Jeffrey Mead, Organist

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

FCCW www.fcc-winchester.org; MA Conference www.macucc.org; Nat'l UCC www.ucc.org
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First Congregational Church in Winchester

Maundy Thursday
Service of Communion &
Tenebrae
March 24, 2016

Introducing the Service

In order to enter most fully into the spirit and mood of this evening's service, that of meditation and personal reflection, we ask that silence be observed by all worshippers. Use the time prior to the service as a time to enter into the presence of the One who welcomes us as we move in spirit into that Upper Room.

Tonight, Communion is self-administered, in the sense that each person is invited to approach the Table when ready, after reading, reflection, and prayer. The bread and cup await you; take as much time as you wish, and return to your pew for further meditation.

The Office of the Tenebrae is an adaptation of an early 4th Century observance of Holy Communion. "Tenebrae" in Latin means "shadows": as the candles are extinguished, symbolic of the flight of the disciples, shadows and darkness come upon us. The total darkness recalls the time Christ was in the tomb, and the relighting of the Christ-candle is prophecy of the Easter so soon to dawn.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE *Give Me Jesus* African American spiritual, arr. Laura Page
The Carilloneers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Judy Arnold

INTROIT *He Never Said a Mumblin' Word*
Traditional Spiritual/arr. Arnold B. Sherman
The Carilloneers

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Ben Pulaski

We are gathered tonight to recall the Last Supper that Jesus had with his friends and to remember the events that followed. Are you prepared to come to the table of the Lord, whose life was poured out for us?

By the grace of God, we are.

Will you watch with Jesus at prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane?

By the grace of God, we will.

Will you follow Jesus, even on this night of his betrayal?

By the grace of God, we are ready.

We will follow with our praise and our prayers.

God of grace and steadfast love, greatly is your name to be praised.

*GATHERING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Kathleen Zagata

Holy One, we gather this evening to share communion together, remembering how the disciples shared a meal with Jesus in an upper room so long ago.

We come as we are...tired from our responsibilities, disturbed by the stories about Jesus' final days, troubled by the cross, unsure what it means to claim to be Jesus' disciples.

Grant us the courage to listen to Christ's passion.

Grant us the grace to respond to Christ's plea for companionship.

As the night deepens, draw us nearer to one another, and to all who stand watch with us, for we pray in Jesus' name...

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us,

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

*HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Red-covered Pilgrim Hymnal # 177

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Will Burhans

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Loving God, we confess that sometimes we have a difficult time following Jesus.

We accept convenient half-truths and are unwilling to stand for the deeper truths of God.

We fail to protest against the injustices in our society, retreating to our safe and comfortable lives and letting others less fortunate fend for themselves.

We can be judgmental and hurtful to others in order to protect or benefit ourselves.

We consume and desire carelessly, devouring the earth's resources and leaving future generations to clean up our messes.

Forgive us, O God. We pray that you would forgive us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: God, who knows our sins, forgives us and offers us the chance to begin again.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(An invitation is extended to all to come to the Lord's Table. When you feel prepared, please come forward and take a piece of bread, and a cup. We invite you to then eat and drink while you are at the Table. When you have finished, please return to your pew for continued silent meditation.)

ANTHEM

Were You There? [2000]

Raymond H. Haan (b. 1938)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

Were you there when he bowed his head and died?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

Were you there when he rose up from the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

Johann Soultz, cello

THE OFFICE OF THE TENEBRAE

THE PLOT AGAINST JESUS

Luke 22:1-6

PREPARING THE PASSOVER MEAL

Luke 22:7-13

Choir *Calvary* (verse 1) Spiritual for Holy Week

Traditional/arr. Tim Harbold

Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary...surely he died on Calvary

INSTITUTING THE PASSOVER MEAL

Luke 22:14-20

INSPIRATION TO SERVICE

John 13:4-9, 12-15

Choir: *Calvary* (verse 2)

Ev'ry time I think about Jesus...surely he died on Calvary.

WARNING OF BETRAYAL

Mark 14:18-20, 27-31

AGONY OF SOUL

Luke 22:39-44

Choir: *Calvary* (verse 3)

Don't you hear the hammer ringing?...surely he died on Calvary.

LONELY VIGIL

Mark 14:37-41

BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES

Matthew 26:57, 59-66

Choir: *Calvary* (verse 4)

Don't you hear him calling his Father?...surely he died on Calvary.