

At Home Maundy Thursday Service

Forest Hill

Tenebrae Service

(Estimated duration: Approx. 30 minutes)

Props – 7 purple tea light candles arranged on a piece of timber with 1 larger white candle (Christ candle), readings (included), matches, snuffer. (The candle colours can be optional, but the Christ candle is white)

- Seated around a table in the evening hours -

(The candles are lit.)



(Remember that although we may be separated, as we worship, we worship as believers in Jesus, as such we form a church)

INTRODUCTION - Leader or individual

Tonight, we gather as the church, followers of Jesus Christ. We journey together in Christian solidarity.

Our songs come from the Taize tradition. Prayerful songs that as you sing or read, allow them to wash over you as a prayer.

TIS 706 HYMN: Bless the Lord my Soul

Bless the Lord my Soul
and bless His holy Name
Bless the Lord my soul
Who leads me into life

Welcome to this Service of Tenebrae. In Latin, Tenebrae means, literally, "darkness". This service is sometimes also known as the Service of the

Shadows. It reminds us of the Shadow of the cross which is clearly in the background of all Jesus' activities in the last weeks and days of his life. It also is a stark reminder of what is sometimes called the "dark night of the soul" which is commonly thought to have been Jesus' experience in the garden of Gethsemane.

One by one, the seven candles will be extinguished, until only the Christ candle is left. Then, after one further reading, even that light will be extinguished. Let us prayerfully enter into the journey of Christ as this journey unfolds.

When the final candle, the Christ candle, is put out remain in quiet reflection until you are comfortable to close the worship. As you prepare our self [yourselves] for this journey together, allow the words of the Taize songs to wash over you.

HYMN: **Within our darkest night**

Within our darkest night
You kindle the fire that never dies away,
never dies away

-----silence-----

*After the words Lord have mercy the response is **Christ have mercy.***

After each reading there will be a brief time of silence, followed by the words, "Lord have mercy", and the response, "Christ have mercy", either sing or read the response, (repeated twice)

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray,
watch and pray.

READINGS:

1. The Shadow of Betrayal Mark 14: 17-21 -

¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the

twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

-----silence-----

Lord have mercy **Christ have mercy** (candle extinguished)



Repeat twice -

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray,
watch and pray.

2. The Shadow of Inner Agony Mark **14: 26, 32-36** -

²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

“Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and

began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, “I am deeply

grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” ³⁵ And going a

little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were

possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, “Abba, Father, for you

all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but

what you want.”

-----silence-----

Lord have mercy **Christ have mercy** (candle extinguished)



Repeat twice -

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray,
watch and pray.

3. The Shadow of Loneliness *Mark 14: 37-42* -

³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?” ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

-----silence-----

Lord have mercy **Christ have mercy** (candle extinguished)



Repeat twice -

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray,

watch and pray.

4. The Shadow of Desertion *Mark 14: 43-52* -

⁴³ Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ All of them deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

-----silence-----

Lord have mercy **Christ have mercy** (candle extinguished)



Repeat twice -

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray,
watch and pray.

5. The Shadow of Accusation *Mark 14: 53, 55-56, 60-64* -

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found

none. ⁵⁶ For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” ⁶¹ But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” ⁶² Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’ ”

⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death.

-----silence-----

Lord have mercy **Christ have mercy** (candle extinguished)



Repeat twice -

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray,
watch and pray.

6. The Shadow of Mockery *Mark 15:12-20* -

¹² Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴ Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the

Jews!” ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

-----silence-----

Lord have mercy **Christ have mercy** (candle extinguished)



Repeat twice -
 Stay with me,
 remain here with me,
 watch and pray,
 watch and pray.

7. The Shadow of Death *Mark 15: 22-26, 33-34, 37* -

²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
 ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

-----silence-----

Lord have mercy **Christ have mercy** (candle extinguished)



Repeat twice -
 Stay with me,
 remain here with me,
 watch and pray,
 watch and pray.

Only the Christ candle remains.

CONCLUDING READING

John 1:1-4 -

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light has come into the world, but people love the shadows rather than the light.

The Christ candle is extinguished. Worship is in darkness



-----**Silence**-----

You can remain for a time of silent meditation and leave worship when you wish.