

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF TENEBRAE
First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus
April 18, 2025 | 12:00 pm

"Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness." The service of Tenebrae, as practiced in most Protestant Churches, is an adaptation of medieval Roman Catholic practice dating back to the ninth century.

After each segment of the story is read, a candle is extinguished. The service ends in complete darkness to convey the sense of total loss of God's presence and the effect of the death of Jesus on the world.

PRELUDE Chorale prelude on "O sacred head now wounded" *J. S. Bach*
(PDM)

WELCOME Rev. Amanda Davis

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Ken Coneby

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all. **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**
And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, **and we loved darkness rather than light.**

*HYMN What Wondrous Love Is This? *by Benjamin Harlan*
(Copyright 2000, Hal Leonard Corporation)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

OPENING PRAYER UMH 284: Good Friday Rev. Steven Newcomb
Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we,
who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

READING #1: JESUS IS BETRAYED, ARRESTED, AND DESERTED Rev. Sylvia Kiboko

EXTINGUISH CANDLE #1 Acolyte

CHORAL ANTHEM #1 Man of Sorrows *Richard Nichols*
(Copyright 2018, Fred Bock Music Company)

Sanctuary Choir; Jamar Jenkins and Taylor Krueger, Soloists
Man of sorrows, you have wept at the grave where Lazarus slept. Wept to see his loved ones mourn, wept to see your world so torn.
Man of Sorrows, you have wept. Man of Sorrows, you were scorned, mocked as though impurely born;
Taunted as the sinner's Friend, yet you stood for the condemned.
Man of Sorrows, You were scorned. Man of Sorrows, you were poor, owning but the clothes you wore.
Birds and foxes have a bed; you had no place for your head.
Man of Sorrows, You were poor. Man of Sorrows, you knew loss long before the cruel cross.
Merciful High Priest, share our seen and unseen griefs. Man of Sorrows, share our loss. Man of sorrows what a name.

READING #2: JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST AND DENIED BY PETER Rev. Ken Coneby

EXTINGUISH CANDLE #2 Acolyte

CHORAL ANTHEM #2 Ah Holy Jesus *Craig Courtney*
(Copyright 2006, Lorenz Publishing Company)

Sanctuary Choir
Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected. O most afflicted! Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee! 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.
For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation thy mortal sorrow and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.
Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving. Ah, holy Jesus.

READING #3: JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE Rev. Amanda Davis

EXTINGUISH CANDLE #3 Acolyte

CHORAL ANTHEM #3 O Sacred Head *Craig Courtney*
(Copyright 2013, Lorenz Publishing Company)

Sanctuary Choir
O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!
What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain; mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place; look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.
What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die; remind me of thy Passion when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move; for those who die believing die safely in thy love.

READING #4: JESUS IS MOCKED AND BEATEN

Rev. Steven Newcomb

EXTINGUISH CANDLE #4

Acolyte

CHORAL ANTHEM #4

Upon a Sinner's Cross
(Copyright 20060, Harold Flanner Music)
Sanctuary Choir; Kammi Estelle, Soloist

Lee Dengler

Assembled on Golgotha's hill, an emblem of great loss, now hangs the dying Son of God upon a sinner's cross.
In concert, raised against the sun, the three were left to die, 'twas thief and thief and Righteous One beneath the morning sky.
Kyrie eleison! Upon a guilty sinner's cross, there hangs God's perfect Son.
The purity of heaven's Lamb, depravity of thieves. Two children born of Abraham, one curses, one believes.
Kyrie eleison! Upon a guilty sinner's cross, there hangs God's perfect Son.
Forever pressed into our minds, this image of great loss; the Son of God for sinners dies upon a sinner's cross.
Kyrie eleison! Upon a guilty sinner's cross, there hangs God's perfect Son. Kyrie eleison! Eleison!

READING #5: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Rev. Sylvia Kiboko

EXTINGUISH CANDLE #5

Acolyte

CHORAL ANTHEM #5

The Lamb Is Crucified, part I
(Copyright 2015 Hal Leonard Corporation)
Sanctuary Choir

Michael Showalter

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Come to the hill of death and shame, the Lamb is lifted high. 'The soldiers curse and mock His name, and hope begins to die.
Nails pierce through his hands and feet; his foes on ev'ry side. Redemption's work is now complete. The Lamb is crucified.

READING #6: JESUS CARES FOR HIS MOTHER

Rev. Ken Coneby

EXTINGUISH CANDLE #6

Acolyte

CHORAL ANTHEM #6

The Lamb Is Crucified, part II
(Copyright 2015 Hal Leonard Corporation)
Sanctuary Choir

Michael Showalter

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. As he takes each labored breath, the earth begins to groan.
The shadows fall as deep as death when God forsakes his own.
Crying out in agony, He shouts, "My God! My God! Why have You forsaken me?" Then whispers, "It is done!" Kyrie eleison.

READING #7: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Rev. Lance Richards

EXTINGUISH CANDLE #7

Acolyte

CHORAL ANTHEM #7

At the Foot of the Cross
(Copyright 2010, Hal Leonard Corporation)
Sanctuary Choir

Lee Dengler

At the foot of the cross there is sorrow, at the foot of the cross there is love,
flowing down together in a river of salvation, covering all the world with grace.
At the foot of the cross there is sadness, at the foot of the cross there is hope,
flowing down together in a river of forgiveness, covering all the world with grace.
Jesus, Man of Sorrows, Jesus, Prince of Peace, on the cross he suffered for our sins' release;
bearing all our burdens, sharing all our pain, covering all the world with grace.
At the foot of the cross there is sorrow; at the foot of the cross there is love.

READING #8: JESUS IS BURIED IN THE TOMB

Rev. Amanda Davis

SILENCE IS KEPT

Congregation

HYMN

Were You There?

UMH 288

BENEDICTION

Song of the Suffering Servant (Excerpt)

Rev. Lance Richards

DEPART IN SILENCE

Congregation

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