

The Chapel in the Pines

April 18, 2025

The Shadow of the Cross A Choral Tenebrae Service



**After entering in silence
please meditate on these words:**

They went to a place called Gethsemane,
and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

He took with him Peter and James and John
and began to be distressed and agitated.

And he said to them,

"My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground
and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible;
remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want."

Mark 14:31-36

The Chiming of the Hour

The Invocation and the 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever...Amen.**

***The Call to Worship**

On this Good Friday, we contemplate the good news of the cross;
how Christ our Lord stretched out his arms
to embrace a world of suffering and sin.
How Christ our Lord stretched out his arms to save us.

Come and see the beloved Son of God.
He is high and lifted up.

Come and see the Ruler of the nations.
He is high and lifted up.

Come and see the Savior of the world.
He is high and lifted up...upon a cross.

***A Psalm of Thanksgiving and Praise**

Adapted from Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**

All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
"Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

**Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**

I am poured out like water, my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

**I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**

***Hymn** #177 What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1** 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.

- 2** 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.

- 3** To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb
Who is the great "I Am,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

- 4** And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
And thro' eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And thro' eternity I'll sing on.

The Call to the Offering

The Offertory

***The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***The Prayer of Dedication**

The Shadow of the Cross; A Contemporary Tenebrae Service **- arranged by Lloyd Larsen**

Director of Music Kristen Webb-Thompson
Narrator Gisela Danielson
Liturgist Kathy Hilton, Worship Team Leader
Choirs The Chapel Chancel Choir
Bensalem Presbyterian Church Choir

"For shadows to exist, there must be light. In the case of the Passion story of our Lord, that light, as the Gospel of John tells us, "...was the light of all people." (John 1:4) *The Shadow of the Cross* walks us through the final hours of Jesus' life including the crucifixion. But as John affirms, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)
- Lloyd Larsen

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand.
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land...
I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place...
- Elizabeth C. Clephane

I Come to the Cross

- Bill Batstone and Bob Somma

Near the Cross

- Fanny J. Crosby and William H. Doane

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace.
I come to the cross where you died in my place.
Out of my weakness and into your strength,
humbly I come to the cross.

We Remember You

- Walt Harrah

We remember you. We remember you.
By your sacrifice of love, all glory now is due.
At this table here, mercy hovers near.
Thanks is offered up, in this bread and cup, we remember you.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

- Lloyd Larson and John E. Bode

I Need Thee Every Hour

- Annie S. Hanks and Robert Lowry

O let me feel you near me, the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within,
but Jesus now draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

- Lloyd Larson and George Matheson

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give the back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

Lamb of God

- Twila Paris

Your gift of love they crucified. They laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God.

You Are My All in All

- Dennis L. Jernigan

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
rising again I bless your name...you are my all in all.
When I fall down you pick me up,
when I am dry you fill my cup...you are my all in all.

When You Prayed Beneath the Trees

- Lloyd Larson

When you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord.
When you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord.
When they lifted you on high and they nailed you up to die
and when darkness filled sky, it was for me...for me...O Lord.

How Beautiful

- Twila Paris

There Is a Redeemer

- Melody Green

And as He laid down His life, we offer this sacrifice
that we will live just as He died...willing to pay the price.
How beautiful...beautiful...is the body of Christ.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- Lowell Mason and Isaac Watts

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

- Frederick C. Maker and Elizabeth C. Clephane

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

A Service of Diminishing Light

Witness at the Cross - God's Creation



***Hymn** #186 The Old Rugged Cross

1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. **[Refrain]**

3 In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. **[Refrain]**

4 To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. **[Refrain]**

***The Stripping of the Church**

Our Good Friday service traditionally includes the ritual of Stripping the Church. The removal of all liturgical items is symbolic of the suffering and death of Jesus. As his life was stripped from him, we strip the church of all the signs of life to symbolize his redemptive death on the cross for all humankind.

***A Reading from the Gospels**

Matthew 27:57-60

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

**As the light of Christ goes out into the world,
would you please exit the service in silence.**

Good Friday Choral Tenebrae Service

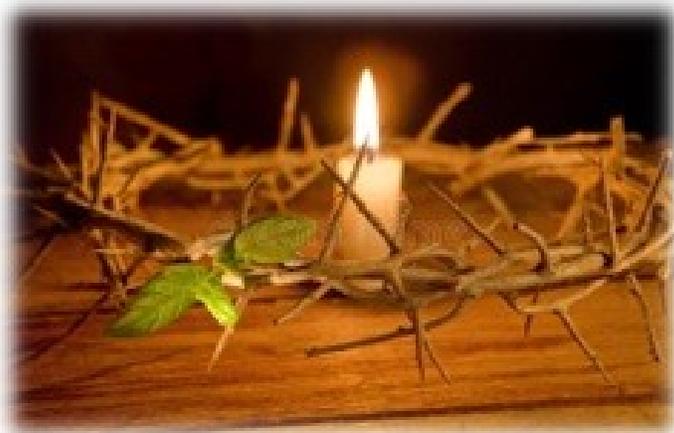
The synoptic gospels record that darkness covered the land during Jesus' crucifixion. Stemming from Latin, the word "Tenebrae" means darkness. So, Tenebrae is the perfect description of this Good Friday service which centers around the increasing darkness of the church as the candles on the candelabra are extinguished one at a time. The darkness not only provides an atmosphere of reflection on Christ's death, but also symbolizes the darkness that Jesus experienced as he hung on the cross.

When one by one the candles are extinguished we are reminded of the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God. However, one candle remains...it is the Christ Candle which stays aglow in the darkness. Satan may have thought he had won, but the burning light of the Christ Candle reminds us that through Christ we have already won the victory as we look with hope to the resurrection that is just on the horizon.

As this Tenebrae service draws to a close we will observe a longstanding tradition of the Chapel called "The Stripping of the Church". To symbolize the despair of Jesus' death, all liturgical items will be stripped from the sanctuary and removed to further emphasize the hopelessness of the disciples and of a world now left without a Savior. All that will remain is the single light of Christ which then goes out of the sanctuary...out into the world but never extinguished...ready to return in celebration on Easter Sunday morning.

Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Christians observe Tenebrae services so this Chapel that welcomes everyone in this community is the perfect venue for this holy event. Tenebrae services may utilize the spoken word alone but this year our Director of Music, Kristen Webb-Thompson has chosen to enhance the spoken word with a choral production that has surely increased the drama and meaning of this service for each of us.

It is almost impossible to truly appreciate the celebration of Resurrection Sunday unless you have journeyed through the depth of darkness of Good Friday. Or, as Tony Campolo famously preached, "It's Friday, but Sunday's a comin!"





*Chapel
in the
Pines*



*Serving our Community by
Preaching, Teaching,
and Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

581 Seven Lakes Drive
West End, NC 27376
910) 400-5188

Pastor Paul James—Minister
Kristen Webb-Thompson—Choir Director



Interdenominational Chapel Serving Seven Lakes Families Since 1976.