

# Good Friday Tenebrae Worship and the Seven Last Words of Christ



***March 29, 2024***

***7:00 pm***

***In the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church  
Shared Worship of Southminster and First Presbyterian  
Churches – Arlington Heights***



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(Worship Sources: Recalling the Seven Last Words of Christ by Norman D. Palsma, reformedworship.org; PC(USA) Call to Worship Good Friday Year B)

*Tenebrae, which is a Latin word meaning "shadows," has been observed in the church of Jesus Christ since the fourth century. On this Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus and recall his seven last words on the cross. As we remember the last words, we will extinguish the candles on the communion table, one by one. The gradual extinguishing of the candles will be accompanied by prayers, hymns, choral anthems and readings from Scripture. Following the final hymn, the Christ candle will be removed briefly from the Sanctuary to signify Christ's death. After the church bell tolls three times, the Christ candle will be brought back as a foretaste of the resurrection that we will celebrate on Easter.*

**PRELUDE**

“Come, Sweet Death”

*J. S. Bach, arr. Virgil Fox*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE**

Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Knowing the fate that awaited him,

**All: Jesus rode into the city on Sunday, and we shouted “Hosanna!”**

One: Knowing that we would betray him,

**All: Jesus broke bread with his disciples on Thursday, and we let him wash our feet.**

One: Knowing why the soldiers look for him tonight,

**All: Jesus will answer, “I am he,” and we will not defend him.**

One: Let us worship in the shadow of the cross

**All: and with Christ lament the pain of the world.**

✠ **HYMN 209**

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

LOVE UNKNOWN

**LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE**

Rev. Dr. Barbara Gorsky

One: Let us remember Jesus: who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us, who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled, who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

**All: May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.**

One: Let us remember Jesus who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him and for the perfecting of those who received him, who loved all people, and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him; who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God.

**All: May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.**

One: Let us remember Jesus, who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross. God has exalted him who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom.

**All: May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done and continues to do for us.**

**CALL AND PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING (One Great Hour of Sharing)**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*Gilbert Martin*

**THE FIRST WORD**

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34.

**REFLECTION**

**PRAYER ON THE FIRST WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, too, may be included in that prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.

*First candle extinguished.*

**HYMN 218**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

**THE SECOND WORD**

"Today you will be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

**READING** from Anne Lamott

**PRAYER ON THE SECOND WORD FROM THE CROSS**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

*Second candle extinguished.*

**ANTHEM**

“Verily, Thou Shalt Be in Paradise”

*Théodore Dubois*

**THE THIRD WORD**

"Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother." John 19:26-27

Rev. Laura Sherwood

**READING** from *Ash & Starlight* by Arianne Braithewaite Lehn

**PRAYER ON THE THIRD WORD FROM THE CROSS**

O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this, our prayer for your mercy's sake. Amen.

*Third candle extinguished.*

**ANTHEM**

“The Mother”

*Frank Ferko*

**THE FOURTH WORD**

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

Rev. Dr. Jose Torres

**REFLECTION**

**PRAYER ON THE FOURTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Almighty God, who forsook your Son upon the cross showing the world your judgment upon human sin and guilt, grant us, upon hearing his cry, the grace to know and believe that we will never be forsaken, that he is present with us even to the end of the age: for the sake of Jesus Christ who bore the sin of our world on the cross. Amen.

*Fourth candle extinguished.*

**HYMN 221**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

**THE FIFTH WORD**

"I am thirsty." John 19:28

Rev. Dr. Barbara Gorsky

**READING** *Thirst* by Mary Oliver

**PRAYER ON THE FIFTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.

*Fifth candle extinguished.*

**ANTHEM**

“Christ, We Do All Adore Thee”

*Théodore Dubois*

**THE SIXTH WORD**

"It is finished." John 19:30

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

**REFLECTION**

**PRAYER ON THE SIXTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Sixth candle extinguished.*

**HYMN 213** (vv. 1-3)

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

RATHBUN

**THE SEVENTH WORD**

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

Rev. Laura Sherwood

**READING** from *The Desert of Compassion* by Rachel M. Srubas

**PRAYER ON THE SEVENTH WORD FROM THE CROSS**

Creator God, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. Amen.

*Seventh candle extinguished.*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**ANTHEM**

“The Lament of the Mother of God”

*John Tavener*

*Christ candle carried out.*

**BENEDICTION**

John 1:1 The Light Shines in the Darkness, and the Darkness did not overcome it.

Rev. Laura Sherwood

*Christ candle carried back in.*

All may linger or depart as each feels ready. Please depart quietly in respect for those who linger.

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**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**Pastors:** Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Rev. Dr. Barbara Gorsky & Rev. Laura Sherwood, *First Presbyterian*  
Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize, *Southminster Presbyterian*  
Rev. Dr. Jose Torres, *Chief of Chaplain Service Jesse Brown VA Medical Center*

**Directors:** Adam Hendrickson, *Director of Music and Worship, First Presbyterian*  
Addison Youngblood, *Director of Unity Choir, Southminster Presbyterian*

**Organist:** Christopher Urban, *Associate Director of Music and Organist, First Presbyterian*

**Choirs:** Chancel Choir, *First Presbyterian*; Unity Choir, *Southminster Presbyterian*

**Soloists:** Diana Richardson, soprano, Kristen Walter, alto, Nick Pulikowski, tenor, Dan Richardson, bass,  
*First Presbyterian*

**JOIN US FOR ANY OF OUR EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES March 31**

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Southminster Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church  
Community Sunrise Service 6:30 am at North School Park