

Through the Shadow, Toward the Dawn

A Tenebrae-Style Service of Shadows and Hope



Good Friday Worship

April 18, 2025, 7:00 pm

In the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church

**First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
and St. John UCC**

Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness") is a service of worship for Good Friday before Easter Sunday. Tenebrae is characterized by a series of Scripture readings and meditations done in stages while lights and/or candles are gradually extinguished to symbolize the growing darkness not only of Jesus' death but of hopelessness in the world without God. The service ends in darkness with a final candle, the Christ candle, extinguished, symbolizing the death of Jesus. The service concludes with a loud noise (strepitus, "great noise") symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb. Worshipers then leave in silence to wait.

PRELUDE "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed" Marianne Kim

WORDS OF WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE Rev. Laura Sherwood

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Inspired by Isaiah 53, Luke 12:49-50, and the Lenten Devotional) Rev. Judy Wang

One: We gather in the growing shadow of the cross.

All: We have come to watch and to pray.

One: Christ, the light of the world, walks this road before us.

All: But the world has chosen darkness.

One: One by one, the lights go out.

All: Still, we wait for the dawn.

***HYMN 218** "Ah, Holy Jesus" HERZLIEBSTER JESU

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Inspired by Psalm 51 and the Lenten Devotional) Rev. Barbara Gorsky

One: Let us confess the brokenness of our world and our own hearts.

All: Merciful God, we come before you, burdened by the weight of all that is not right. We see shadows of suffering and sorrow, injustice that goes unchallenged, hatred that grows instead of love. We confess the shadows we have named, and those we have ignored. Have mercy on us, O God. Lift our eyes to the dawn, that we may follow Christ even through the night. Hold us in your grace and lead us toward the light. Amen.

REVERSING THE LENTEN LENGTHENING OF LIGHT Rev. Rebekah Anderson

We began our Lenten season on Ash Wednesday with the lighting of the Christ Candle. Each of the following Sundays in Lent, we lit two additional candles, remembering the disciples who followed Christ and the growing movement of God's light in the world. Tonight, we reverse that practice, extinguishing the candles in pairs, symbolizing the disciples' scattering and the world's descent into shadow. We begin with all twelve disciple candles and the Christ candle lit. As the Good Friday story unfolds, the light will fade.

CALL AND PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING (One Great Hour of Sharing) Rev. Barbara Gorsky

OFFERTORY "One Lonely Night" Joseph Martin
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

THE TENEBRAE READINGS & CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

I. Betrayal: Jesus Is Arrested (John 18:1-11)

The night falls heavy as a friend's kiss turns to a sword. How often do we, too, betray love, choosing fear instead?

The first two disciple candles are extinguished.

"As Jesus gathered disciples to walk with him, so too did they scatter into the night. The light that had drawn them together begins to fade."

ANTHEM

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

T. Tertius Noble

II. Denial: Peter Turns Away (John 18:12-27)

In the flickering light of a courtyard fire, fear wins again. When have we, too, stayed silent when love called us to speak?

Two more disciple candles are extinguished.

"As the rooster crows, another light goes out. What once burned with promise now flickers in the wind."

HYMN 215

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

WONDROUS LOVE

III. Condemnation: Jesus Before Pilate (John 18:28-40)

The truth stands before power, and power turns away. What truth have we ignored to keep our own comfort?

Two more disciple candles are extinguished.

"The world was drawn to the light of Christ, but power turns its face away. Another light fades into shadow."

ANTHEM

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"
First Presbyterian Youth Choir

Townend and Getty

IV. Humiliation: Jesus Is Mocked (John 19:1-16)

The world laughs at love, calling it weakness. But love endures even here, wearing a crown of thorns.

Two more disciple candles are extinguished.

"The light that once grew strong now falters, as the world chooses scorn over love."

HYMN 221

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

PASSION CHORALE

V. Crucifixion: Jesus on the Cross (John 19:17-30)

A mother watches, a friend weeps, a Savior breathes his last. The world holds its breath.

Two more disciple candles are extinguished.

"He called people to follow, to carry the light into the world. Now, in the shadows of the cross, the movement seems to die with him."

ANTHEM

"Jesus Died on Calvary's Mountain"
St. John UCC Chancel Choir

Jay Althouse

VI. Burial: The Tomb is Sealed (John 19:31-42)

The world falls silent. Hope seems buried. But even in the dark, something is stirring.

The final two disciple candles are extinguished.

"The light that once lengthened now fades completely. The disciples are gone. The movement has ended. Or so it seems."

HYMN 228 (vs. 1-4)

"Were You There"

WERE YOU THERE

VII. The Shadow of Silence (*Matthew 27:57-61*)

Night has fallen. All is still. But the story is not over.

ANTHEM

"Stay With Us"

Egil Hovland

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

The Christ candle is extinguished.

The Strepitus (a loud sound that marks the moment of Christ's death)

"The last light is gone. But even as the night deepens, creation holds its breath. For dawn is coming."

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

CLOSING THOUGHT

Rev. Judy Wang

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastors: Rev. Judy Wang – St. John UCC, Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Rev. Barbara Gorsky & Rev. Laura Sherwood – First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
First Pres: Christopher Urban, Associate Director of Music and Organist
St. John: Alberto Montovano, Choir Director; Linda Styzek, Pianist
Choirs: St. John UCC Chancel Choir, First Presbyterian Youth Choir, First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

JOIN US FOR ANY OF OUR EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES APRIL 20

At North School Park with St. John UCC and First Presbyterian Church
Community Sunrise Service 6:30, Fellowship 7:00 am at St. John UCC

At St. John United Church of Christ
Worship in the Sanctuary 10:00 am

At First Presbyterian Church
Modern Worship 8:00 am in the Chapel
Traditional Worship at 9:30 & 11:00 am in the Sanctuary



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