



Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 2, 2021

Thank you for attending the City Reformed Good Friday Tenebrae Service. We are thankful for the friends from the many churches who are able to join us tonight. Information about our City Reformed Easter services is available online: www.cityreformed.org/easter-2021.

We are particularly thankful for the hospitality of First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, and that their members are able to join us tonight. Information about First Baptist Church and their Easter services can be found online: www.fbcpgh.org.

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 2, 2021

Welcome! We are thankful for those of you who are able to join us tonight. For nearly 2,000 years the Christian church has remembered the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the central tenet of its faith. Easter and the days that lead up to it are a time to remember the gritty and bloody sacrifice of Jesus Christ. During Easter week we reflect on both the sorrow and joy of the ministry of Jesus Christ. On Sunday morning we will gather both in person and virtually to celebrate the earthshaking joy of the resurrection. But tonight we are remembering that our redemption came at a cost - a terrible cost. The Son of God was betrayed, humiliated, tortured and killed. He did this as our substitute and in so doing offers us forgiveness for our sin.

Our service this evening is a Tenebrae ("shadows") worship service in which the lights will gradually diminish as the biblical narrative moves towards the death of Christ. We use candles to highlight the service. After each of the five readings, a candle will be extinguished. The service will end in darkness as we remember the suffering and death of Christ.

At the conclusion of the service, you are welcome to remain seated for quiet contemplation and prayer. However, unlike in past years, we will need to ask people from the first service to exit the room after about 10 minutes so that we can prepare for the second service.

Ushers are available for guidance.

There is a cry room available to the right of the sanctuary

Welcome and Introduction: Reverend Matthew Koerber

Opening Prayer: Reverend Matthew Koerber

First Reading: Luke 22:1-2, 24-27, 35-38

The Scripture Fulfilled - Reverend Matthew Koerber

[22:1-2] Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

[22:24-27] A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

[22:35-38] And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing." He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment." And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

Candle Extinguished

Not What My Hands Have Done

(Words: Horatius Bonar 1864; Music: Kevin Twit 2001)

Not what my hands have done
Can save my guilty soul.
Not what my toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole,
Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God.
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears
Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin.
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God,
Not mine, O Lord, to thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest
And set my spirit free!
Can rid me of this dark unrest
And set my spirit free!

Thy grace alone, O God,
To me can pardon speak.
Thy power alone, O Son of God,
Can this sore bondage break.
No other work save thine,
No other blood will do.
No strength save that which is divine
Can bear me safely thru.

I bless the Christ of God,
I rest on love divine.
And with unfaltering lip and heart,
I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt,
I bury in His tomb
My unbelief and all my fear,
Each lingering shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace,
I trust his truth and might.
He calls me his, I call him mine,
My God, my joy, my light.
'Tis he who saveth me,
And freely pardon gives.
I love because he loveth me,
I live because he lives!
I love because he loveth me,
I live because he lives!

Second Reading: Luke 22:39-53

Arrest in the Garden - Reverend Joseph Bianco

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Candle Extinguished

Psalm 25

(Words & Music: Joe Day 2000)

Good and upright
Are you Lord
You teach us sinners
In your ways
(Repeat)

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways
(Repeat)

All your ways are
Loving, faithful, Lord
To those who
Seek your face
(Repeat)

You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways
(Repeat)

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways
You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways

Third Reading: Luke 22:66-23:1, 23:13-25

Trial - Reverend Charles Fox

[22:66-23:1] When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate.

[23:13-25] Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him."

But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"—a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

Candle Extinguished

Laden with Guilt

(Music: Sandra McCracken 2001; Words: Isaac Watts 1766)

Laden with guilt and full of fears,
I fly to thee my Lord.
And not a glimpse of hope appears,
But in thy written word
The volumes of my Father's grace,
Does all my griefs assuage.
Here I behold my Savior's face,
In every page.

This is the field where hidden lies
The pearl of price unknown.
That merchant is divinely wise,
Who makes the pearl his own.
Here consecrated water flows,
To quench my thirst of sin;
Here the fair tree of knowledge grows,
No danger dwells within.

This is the judge that ends the strife,
Where wit and reason fail.
My guide to everlasting life,
Through all this gloomy vale.
Oh may thy counsels, mighty God,
My roving feet command,
Nor I forsake the happy road
That leads to thy right hand.

Oh may thy counsels, mighty God,
My roving feet command,
Nor I forsake the happy road
That leads to thy right hand.

Fourth Reading: Luke 23:26-43

Crucifixion - Reverend Nameun Cho

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Candle Extinguished

Jesus I Come

(Words: William Sleeper 1887; Music: Greg Thompson 2000)

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light
Jesus, I come to Thee,
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Fifth Reading: Luke 23:44-56

Death and Burial - Reverend Derek Bates

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Candle Extinguished

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

*(Words: Bernard of Clairvaux 1100's; Translation: J. Alexander 1656 & P. Gerhardt 1830;
Music: Hans Hassler 1601 & J.S. Bach 1729)*

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

My burden in Thy Passion,
Lord, Thou hast borne for me,
For it was my transgression
Which brought this woe on Thee.
I cast me down before Thee,
Wrath were my rightful lot;
Have mercy, I implore Thee;
Redeemer, spurn me not!

What Thou, my Lord, has 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.

Fairest Lord Jesus

(Words: Unknown; Music: Silesian Folk Melody)

Fairest Lord Jesus Ruler of all nature
O Thou of God and man the Son
Thee will I cherish Thee will I honor
Thou my soul's glory joy and crown

Beautiful Saviour Lord of all the nations
Son of God and Son of Man
Glory and honor praise adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine

Musicians

Music Director: Daniel Justice Snoke

Guitar and Vocals: Wesley Jernigan (5:00pm) and Daniel Snoke (6:30pm)

Vocals: Emily Peets

Trumpet: Jim Partridge

Double Bass: Pat Spallinger

Drums: Joe Bencoter

Sound: Carolyn Freidrich

Stream: Ben Love

Lighting: Karl Bontrager

Readers

Matt Koerber *Senior Pastor, City Reformed Presbyterian Church*

Joseph Bianco *Associate Pastor, City Reformed Presbyterian Church*

Charles Fox *Pastor, First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh*

Nameun Cho *Assistant Pastor, City Reformed Presbyterian Church*

Derek Bates *Campus Pastor, Reformed University Fellowship (Pitt)*

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

Starting SUNDAY 4/11 | 9AM & 11AM

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

SIGN-UPS: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Sunday Evening Communion Service

Winchester Thurston Parking Lot

5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

SUNDAY 4/11 | 5PM

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