

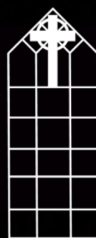
TENEBRAE

A Service of Darkness

by Hal H. Hopson



MAUNDY
THURSDAY
APRIL 6, 2023



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

✠ Please stand in body or spirit



Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness

Prelude

Hal H. Hopson

Welcome and Greeting

✠ **Call to Worship**

Welcome to you who call upon the name of Christ.

We gather tonight to recall the story of the night Jesus was betrayed.

Are you prepared to come to the feast of Jesus, the Christ,
whose life was poured out for you?

By the grace of God, we are.

Are you able to watch with Jesus at prayer in the garden --
indeed, to struggle yourselves to be in unity with God's will for you?

By the grace of God, we are.

Then let us praise God, even in this hour of darkness!

God of all grace and steadfast love,

greatly is your name to be praised in all the earth.

Bring us to this feast of remembrance with open hearts!

✠ **Hymn**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE;

Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

Choir and Congregation

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.

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.

Evening Prayer

Hymn

All Who Pass This Way

KUM BA YAH

Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

Verse 1—Choir Only

Verse 2—Choir and Congregation

All who pass this way, look and see;

All who pass this way, look and see;

See the Lord of Life, see him now; see his suff 'ring; Kum ba yah.

Verse 3—Choir and Congregation

All who pass this way, look and see;

All who pass this way, look and see;

See the Lord of Life, see him now; see him dying; Kum ba yah.



The Passion of Our Lord

First Reading

Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16

Pew Bible page 29

*The religious leaders conspire against Jesus;
Judas plots with the authorities to deliver Jesus*

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

A time of silence and stillness

The first candle is extinguished

Second Reading

Matthew 26:17-25

Pew Bible page 30

*Jesus tells his disciples where to celebrate the Paschal meal;
Jesus announces that one of his disciples will betray him*

Cindy Moon

A time of silence and stillness

The second candle is extinguished

Invitation to the Table

by Scott Cervas

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Third Reading

Matthew 26:26-30

Pew Bible page 30

Jesus recited the Words of Institution

Jim Patrick

Communion of the People

Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The gifts of God for the people of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body!

See our Worship Practices section for more details.

Communion Anthem

The Cup of Love
Jodi Atkins, cantor

Psalm 116 paraphrased
Music by Hal H. Hopson

Prayer After Communion

Fourth Reading

Matthew 26:31-46

Pew Bible page 30

*Jesus tells his disciples that they will all desert him;
In Gethsemane the disciples fall asleep*

Adriane Ivey

A time of silence and stillness

The third candle is extinguished

Hymn

Could You Not Watch

Hal H. Hopson

First Refrain—Choir only

Refrain—Choir and Congregation

Could you not watch? Could you not watch?

Could you not watch with me one hour?

Could you not watch? Could you not watch?

Could you not watch with me?

Verses—Soloists Jennifer Fogarty, Danny Vining, Nichole Howell

Refrains after each solo—Choir and Congregation

Fifth Reading

Matthew 26:47-75

Pew Bible page 30

Jesus is betrayed by Judas and then is seized by the Roman soldiers;

Jesus' trial begins in the court of the high priest Caiaphas;

Peter denies having any knowledge of Jesus

Warren Liem

A time of silence and stillness

The fourth candle is extinguished

Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

Verse 1—Choir and Congregation

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,

that mortal judgment has on thee descended?

By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Verse 2—Choir only

Sixth Reading

Matthew 27:1-26

Pew Bible page 31

Jesus is put in custody of Pontius Pilate;

Jesus is put on the stand before Pontius Pilate;

The crowd shouts, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Beth Lamb

Anthem

Crucify Him!

Music by Hal H. Hopson

Seventh Reading

Matthew 27:27-44

Pew Bible page 32

*The Roman soldiers mock Jesus, proclaiming,
"Hail, King of the Jews"
Jesus is crucified*

Doug Bolton

A time of silence and stillness

The fifth candle is extinguished

Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG and ROCKINGHAM

Text by Isaac Watts (1707)

Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

Verse 1—Choir only

Verse 2—Choir and Congregation (seated)

***Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.***

Verse 3—Choir only

✠ ***Verse 4—Choir and Congregation*** (stand as directed)

***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.***

Eighth Reading

Matthew 27:45-50

Pew Bible page 33

Jesus breathes his last breath

Rev. Erin Morgan

A time of silence and stillness

The sixth candle is extinguished

Reprise

Ah, Holy Jesus

Music by Hal H. Hopson

Ninth Reading

Matthew 27:51-54

Pew Bible page 33

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

The Earthquake

Ninth Reading continues

A time of silence and stillness

The seventh candle is extinguished

Stripping of the Chancel

Duet

Were You There
Janet Carmichael, soprano;
Jim Patrick, tenor

African-American Spiritual
Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

A time of silence and stillness

Exit in silence

You are invited to reflect in a time of silence and stillness following the final duet. We ask that you leave the sanctuary in silence so as not to disturb the reflections of others. The lights in the Narthex will turn on in a few moments, we ask for your safety to remain seated until your way is visible.



Worship Practices

Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License #A-728738.

Communion

All are invited to come forward to take communion. The ushers will guide you to two stations on either side of the Lord's table to receive the bread and the cup. You may choose to receive prepackaged communion elements or a gluten-free option which are available at the Lord's table. If you are not physically able to come forward and would still like to receive communion, please let an usher know and it will be brought to you. Communion elements are taken to the nursery for children to participate in the sacrament. If you would not like to receive communion, you are welcome to stay in your seat for a time of prayerful reflection.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley
Usher Chair | Curtis Watson Acolyte | Amelia Evans

Guest Musicians

Violin I *Andrew Uhe*

Violin II *Lance Ding*

Viola *David Edwards*

Cello *Karen Bergmann*

Oboe *Kimberly Lorch Perrin*

Timpani *Jeff Macko*



Worship Note

The Service of Tenebrae follows a tradition of the church dating back to the eighth century. From Latin, the word Tenebrae means "darkness" and commemorates the final hours of our Lord's life on earth, as he suffered death upon the cross.

In the early church, the service of Tenebrae was celebrated on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week. The gradual darkening of the church portrays the diminishing light of the world as Christ was departing from it.

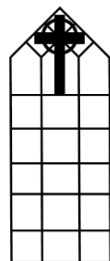
The spirit of the service is one of deep, solemn meditation, with ample time given for reflection after each candle is extinguished. The lighting in the sanctuary will be gradually dimmed as the service progresses. As the candles are extinguished throughout the service, they symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. The candles are extinguished one by one after the scripture readings.

A variety of vocal textures is provided by the cantor and choir, as well as the familiar hymns sung by the congregation, including "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "Ah, Holy Jesus."

After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, beating, crowning with thorns, spitting, mockery, the trudge to Golgotha, and Jesus' death upon the cross.

The Tenebrae service includes a reenactment of the tearing of the temple curtain and the earthquake near the end of the service.

The stripping of the chancel at the conclusion of the service, the removal of all ornamentation, is an ancient custom of the Roman rite done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. As Jesus' life was stripped from him, so we strip our chancel of the signs of life to symbolize his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death *"for us and for our salvation."*



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