

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
April 14, 2022 7:00 PM

Many of the events surrounding the last days of Christ are shrouded in darkness. In the fourth century a solemn observance of the Lord's supper, known as "Tenebrae" (meaning "darkness" or "shadows") was celebrated. The Office of Tenebrae involves a symbolic extinguishing of lights, signifying the gathering forces of evil and the approach of Jesus' death. When all fall away, only Jesus, represented by the lone-lit candle, remains faithful.

PRELUDE                    *'Double' from Partita no. 1 in B minor* – J. S. Bach                    Sue Faux, Violin

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)                    Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: The darkness deepens, and the Lord grows troubled.

Can we watch with him?

Can we be the friends at his table who share his bread and cup?

Can we be the companions who journey with him to the end?

**People: We come to this memorial feast in gratitude, to worship, to watch and to give thanks for such great love.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 211                    *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)                    Rev. Carolyn Keilig

**We call on your name, O God, out of our desperate need for healing and forgiveness. We have broken covenant, forgotten who we are, and lived by our own conceits. We act as if we have no need of you when things go well. When suffering and loss come to us, we complain. Forgive us, God, for wanting the whole world to revolve around us. Restore us to full membership and responsibility in your family, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: The feast of God is designed to satisfy not our physical appetites but our hunger and thirst for righteousness. This table has long been set and there has always been a place reserved for you. Beloved, your sins are forgiven.

THE SACRAMENT AT OUR LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP (by intinction; rice cakes are gluten-free)

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION                    *Eat this Bread and Christ of Compassion* – Taize Chants  
Adam Peithmann, Elizabeth Blood & Carol Soucy

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**We thank you, holy God, for giving us this meal, shared in the Spirit, which sustains us with the food and drink of your life. Grace our lives that we may at the last come to share in the heavenly banquet of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 196                    *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (verses 1-3)

OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

1<sup>ST</sup> READING                    Luke 22:39-46                    Carolyn Keilig

2<sup>ND</sup> READING                    Luke 22:47-53                    Barbara Papagian

HYMN                    *Were You There* (v. 1)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?...Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

3<sup>RD</sup> READING                    Luke 22:54-62                    Tom Irving

4<sup>TH</sup> READING                    Luke 22:63-71                    Peter Perich

HYMN                    *Were You There* (v. 2)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?...Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

5<sup>TH</sup> READING                    Luke 23:1-12                    Liz Verity

6<sup>TH</sup> READING                    Luke 23:13-25                    Ellie Stetson

HYMN                    *Were You There* (v. 3)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?...Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

7<sup>TH</sup> READING                    Luke 23:26-38                    Justin May

8<sup>TH</sup> READING                    Luke 23:39-46                    Carol Soucy

INSTRUMENTAL VERSE

9<sup>TH</sup> READING                    Luke 23:47-56                    Carol Soucy

RETURN OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                    *Old Rugged Cross*                    Violin Solo

(After the postlude, you are invited to share in the Gethsemane Vigil at home; please depart in silence.)

\* You are invited to stand if you wish

**First Congregational Church**

United Church of Christ

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***You are welcome here! ▪ We are an Open & Affirming Congregation***