

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and Service of Tenebrae April 1, 2021

Greenbelt Community Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Maundy Thursday**

Time: Apr 1, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81029477390>

Meeting ID: 810 2947 7390

One tap mobile +1 301 715 8592

Call to Worship

Leader: The Israelites cried out to God in their oppression.

**People: Their voices still echo around the globe:
In India, Sudan, Mexico, and in American cities.**

Leader: God hears the cries of the suffering,
And delivers those who wait on God.

**People: All who suffer, who die, who are alienated
Are precious to God;
Let us love the Lord who restores liberty,
And gives us hope for peace.**

Leader: Today we remember the One who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ.

People: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Confession

Giver of Life, from time immemorial you call us to yourself.

In ways too numerous to mention, we fail to respond.

Forgive us, we pray.

Our limited understanding of culture

gets in the way of fellowship

with those different from ourselves.

Our limited vision of community

gets in the way of your call

to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

to seek justice and peace for all.

Replace our arrogance, Merciful One,

with the humility and caring service Jesus modeled,

for truly we are not greater than our Teacher and Savior. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God gives us grace and more grace.
Be assured of this truth, that in Christ you are forgiven!

Listening for God in the Stories of our Tradition

Exodus 12:12-14: Recalling the Passover

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

¹²“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

*Imagine yourself and your family in this text,
among the Israelites who were enslaved and desperate.
What thoughts might go through your mind
as you follow these instructions and prepare this meal?
How would you explain to children
why you are eating “hurriedly”?
Are you excited? Fearful?
What images of oppression and liberation come to mind?
Where do you experience the need for freedom in your life?
in your community?
in our world?
What is the cost of freedom?*

(Quiet Moments for Personal Reflection)

Community and Communion: God in Our Midst

Pastoral Communion Prayer (*From “It Was a Sad and Solemn Night” New Century Hymnal*)

Christ, you blessed your disciples on the first Maundy Thursday the night in which you left a new command for your beloved ones that we to "Love one another as I have loved you." We do so tonight. We recommit to love each other as we have been loved by you. We remember what you shared. "Share this my feast, till time shall end, in memory of

your dying friend, Meet at my table and recall the love which God has shown to all." Yes Christ tonight we do recall. "We celebrate and sing your name, Till you return..."

In Unison Let Us Share the Words of our Lord 1 Corinthians 11:23b-26:

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Pastor

Eat, be nourished and renewed in the LOVE and Continuing Presence of Jesus Christ. Drink of the life of Jesus our Christ and find New Life.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord Jesus, may we be refreshed and replenished by this meal. Bless us now as we enter into our service of Tenebrae. Amen.

Tenebrae: Service of Shadows

Call to the Service of Tenebrae

The
people
stood
yelling,
"Crucify!"
and it breaks our hearts every time.
For Jesus' death occurs every time someone
is ignored, mistreated, oppressed.
"Crucify!"
tears
away
at
God's
Beloved.

First of the Shadows
John 18: excerpts Jesus is Arrested
Reader: Jim Miers

18 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.
"I am he," Jesus said

⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"
"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him.

Extinguish the first candle

Our Unison Prayer: (From "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" *New Century Hymnal*)

"O sacred Head now wounded...What language shall I borrow to thank you dearest friend; May I be yours forever...O Savior, let me never outlive my love for you." Amen

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Second of the Shadows
John 18: excerpts: Peter Denies Jesus
Readers: Rick & Barbara Ransom

Peter's First Denial

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard,

¹⁶ but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

¹⁷ "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter.

He replied, "I am not."

Peter's Second and Third Denials

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?"

He denied it, saying, "I am not."

²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Extinguish the second candle

Our Unison Prayer of Reconciliation

**It hurts to find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there:
The pain of the world,
of faithless decisions; of betrayal; of injustice.
Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness,
to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Eternal Love.
Strengthen us with your courage Christ and this same divine love.
Amen.**

III

Third of the Shadows John 18: excerpts: Trial of Jesus before Pilate Reader: Carol Griffith

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor.

²⁹ Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

³⁰ "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

³¹ Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected.

³² This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴ "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Extinguish the third candle

Our Unison Prayer (*From "What Wondrous Love is This" New Century Hymnal*)

"What wondrous love is this, O my Soul ... that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul...for MY SOUL! To God and to the Lamb I will sing...who is the great I AM... I'll sing on...and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on." Our souls will always sing the song of Christ's Love! Amen.

IV

Fourth of the Shadows
John 18: 38 through 19: 16 excerpts: Jesus is Condemned to Death
Reader: Carol Bellamy

³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.

³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews?’”

⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

¹⁹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe

³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,

⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.

¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹² he brought Jesus out....

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Extinguish the fourth candle

(Quiet Moments for Personal Reflection)

V

Fifth of the Shadows

**John 19 excerpts: From the Cross, Jesus Calls Forth Beloved Community
Reader: Gwen Vaccaro**

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.

²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son,"

²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Extinguish the fifth candle

Our Unison Prayer

**Ever Present God,
we are amazed that Jesus, nearing his death,
reached out to comfort and empower those dearest to him.
At the foot of his cross,
he called his mother and his beloved disciple into a new community.
Give us the grace and courage to join them there,
welcoming all who struggle and grieve
into this new covenant of love and grace. Amen.**

VI

Sixth of the Shadows John 19: 28-30: Jesus Dies Reader: Karen Yoho

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Extinguish the sixth candle

VII

Reader: Jan Derry

With most of the disciples at a safe distance observing, beloved ones took the risks of being at the feet of Jesus. They bore witness:

Jesus is dead...It is finished.

Extinguish the seventh candle depart into the arms of our Loving God prayerfully.

Special Music

Jim Tilton sings "Were You There"