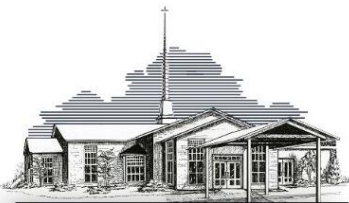


Maundy Thursday

Service of Tenebrae



Newtown Square
Presbyterian Church

www.newtownsquarepres.org

April 2, 2026

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Communion & Service of Tenebrae

April 2, 2026

7:30 PM

Our service begins with the Prelude that invites our hearts to prepare for worship.

PRELUDE*You Are My Refuge, Faithful God*.....D. Gambrell

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Why is this night different from all other nights?

Because on this night we see the measure of God's love for us.

Why on this night do we break bread and pour wine?

Because on this night we remember the body broken and blood poured out to renew God's covenant.

Why on this night do we sit in darkness and silence?

Because on this night we see the greatness of God's love in Christ's death on the cross.

Let us worship God together.

***HYMN 223**HAMBURG
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Lord Jesus Christ,
how well you know our hearts,
and still you love us.

You have loved us to the end.

You love us beyond the end.

We have denied you.
*We have denied our calling
to serve one another.*

We have betrayed you.
***We have betrayed your commandment
to love one another.***

We have run from you.
***We have run from our responsibility
to care for one another.***

(Please offer in silence your personal confession.)

Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.
***Teach us to love and serve you faithfully
and to love and serve one another
by the example you have set for us;
in your holy name we pray. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI 581**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

***THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
Let us forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

SCRIPTURE READING

NT Page 107-108..... John 13:1-20

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION Rev. Bill Searight

ANTHEM*Erbarme Dich, Mein Gott* Bach

From *Matthäuspasion BWV 244*

Heojin Sim, Soprano

Sung in German; Translation below

*Erbarme dich, mein Gott,
Um meiner Zähren Willen!
Schau hier, Herz und Auge
Weint vor dir bitterlich.
Erbarme dich, erbarme dich!*

*Have mercy, my God,
for the sake of my tears!
Look here, heart and eyes
weep bitterly before you.
Have mercy, have mercy!*

LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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...

The Lord's Prayer

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FILLING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE (by intinction)

**We will share communion by intinction. Take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

*God of grace, we give you thanks
for the redemption we have shared
in the body and blood of our Savior.
As you have nourished us with love,
let our lives proclaim your great love for the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

***HYMN 218** HERZLIEBSTER JESU

“Ah, Holy Jesus”
(Verses 1-4)

(During the singing of the hymn, the sanctuary is stripped.)

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Jerry Schauer John 13:21-27, 30

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION

Marg MacDonald Matthew 26:31-35

ANTHEM *Kyrie* J. Althouse

Sanctuary Choir with Soloists
Sung in Latin; Translation below

*Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison*

*Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy*

THE SHADOW OF ARREST

Joe Talento Matthew 26:47-50

THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

Rich Digby Luke 22:54-62

ANTHEM *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*..... Bach/Arr. Raney
Min Sue Kim, Mezzo Soprano

THE SHADOW OF REJECTION
Buff Biddle Mark 15:6-15

THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS
Dennis DiGirolamo... Matthew 27:27-31

THE SHADOW OF DEATH
Rev. Bill Searight..... Luke 23:44-46

POSTLUDE *Were You There?*..... Traditional/Hogan
Yong Woo Kim, Tenor

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? 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?*

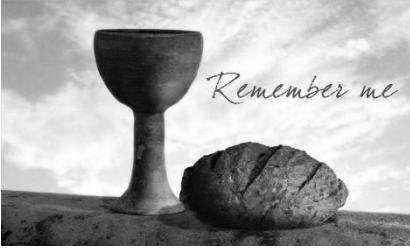
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree...

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb...

Please depart in silence.

***Congregation standing, in body or spirit as able**

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from the *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.



“Tenebrae” is Latin for “shadows.” In this ancient service which dates back to the eighth century, candles are extinguished one by one, symbolizing the gathering shadows, as we hear the story of Jesus’ betrayal and crucifixion, leaving only the Christ candle burning. Finally, after hearing of his death, even the Christ

Candle is carried out, leaving the sanctuary in darkness. As we recite the Apostles’ Creed, the candle is carried back in with the words “on the third day”, reminding us that beyond the darkness of this night, the light of resurrection hope still shines.

THANK YOU to Cheryl Koch for her painting “Elements of Faith” that is pictured on the cover.

USHERS: Grant Snyder, Capt.; Jim Shea, Chris Barmes, Joe Kasuska

COMMUNION SERVERS: Rev. Bill Searight and Buff Biddle

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NSPC Easter Service

April 5th at 10:00 AM

(Infant care and Sunday school for children up through 5th grade)



In Ministry Together at Newtown Square Presbyterian Church:

Pastor The Rev. Bill Searight
 Parish Associate The Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy
 Director of Music Jin Hyun Park
 Director of Youth & Families Kristi Schaub
 Church Office Manager Heather Impriano
 PreK-1st Sunday School Teacher Beth McCarry
 2nd-4th grade Sunday School Teacher Debbie Villano
 Nursery Attendants Grace McCarry & Sadie Kazanjian
 Co-Director, NSPC Preschool..... Jane Fioravanti
 Co-Director, NSPC Preschool..... Meghan Kazanjian
 Clerk of Session Buff Biddle
 President, Board of Trustees Robert Gray
 Moderator of Deacons..... Margie Garwood
 Co-Treasurer Rich Digby
 Co-Treasurer Heather Impriano
 Head Usher..... Grant Snyder
 Communion Coordinator Carol Guest
 Presbyterian Women Ginny Berman

Plus...all the members of NSPC

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