

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"We Shine For All Through Christ"
St. Marys, Ohio

April 7, 2023 **Good Friday** **7:00 p.m.**
TENNEBRAE: SERVICE OF SHADOWS

THE GATHERING IN SILENCE

(Good Friday is the day we remember as the day Jesus died on the cross just outside the city walls of Jerusalem on a hill called Golgotha (the place of the skull). We refer to it normally as Good Friday because we believe that through his death upon the cross of Calvary, Jesus died for our sins. This love was given by Christ so that we might have eternal life through faith.)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The
people
stood
yelling,
“Crucify”
and it breaks our hearts every time someone
is ignored, mistreated, oppressed.
“Crucify!”
tears
away
at
God’s
Beloved.

FIRST OF THE SHADOWS

John 18:1-12 **Jesus is Arrested**
Extinguish the first candle

HYMN #284 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

SECOND OF THE SHADOWS

John 18:13-18; 25-27 **Peter denies Jesus**
Extinguish the second candle

A PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Ever-present God, on this Good Friday night, our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of Jesus’ death.
We confess that we want to push the fast-forward button on this familiar story because it hurts so much. It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath. It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world.

But we must 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 you and to us, to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Love.

We confess, we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus. Strengthen us with your courage; offer glimpses of hope in the shadows of death; let us know you are present with us here in this moment of pain; now as always.

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

Beloved followers of Jesus, it is okay to feel hurt and uncomfortable as you enter into this story and imagine your place in it. Know that God meets you in the story, with comfort as well as challenge; with courage as well as love.

THIRD OF THE SHADOWS

John 18:28-38 **Trial of Jesus before Pilate**
Extinguish the third candle

HYMN # 257 “What Wondrous Love is This” (verses 1-2)

FOURTH OF THE SHADOWS

John 18:38-19:16a **Jesus is Condemned to Death**
Extinguish the fourth candle

SPECIAL MUSIC “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Jim Huckemeyer, Trombone Solo

FIFTH OF THE SHADOWS

John 19:16b-27 **From the Cross, Jesus Calls Forth Beloved Community**
Extinguish the fifth candle

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 the 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.

SIXTH OF THE SHADOWS

John 19:28-30 **Jesus Dies**
Extinguish the sixth candle

3 loud knocks come from the back of the sanctuary to represent the death of Jesus

A GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION

Rev. Rhonda Hainer

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Via Dolorosa”

Gregg Sewell

Jesus is dead.....It is finished.
Extinguish the seventh candle

SEVENTH OF THE SHADOWS

John 19:38-42 **Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

PRAYERFUL RECESS

*Jesus is laid in the tomb, and his followers leave him to God, in the silence and rest of Sabbath.
Pastor Rhonda will lead the congregation out of the sanctuary in silence, except for a reprise of singing “Were You There?” a cappella.*

You are invited to leave into the shadows of this night.

LITURGIST.....Rev. C. David Hainer
PASTOR.....Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer
ORGANIST.....Ann Vogel



They shouted
"Crucify him
crucify him!"
Pilate asked
"Shall I crucify
your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."
Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;
and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to The Place of the Skull

There they
crucified him
and with him
two others,
one on either
side with Jesus
between them.
Pilate also had
an inscription
written and put
on the cross.
It read "Jesus
of Nazareth, the
King of the Jews.

Service of Shadows
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 7, 2023
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Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer