



***Bryn Mawr
Presbyterian Church***

March 30, 2018
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
The Service of Tenebrae
Good Friday Evening

TENEBRAE

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae.

Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the “strepitus”; and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

O People, Lament Your Great Sin

J. S. Bach

† **GREETING**

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

All: He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

One: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,

All: and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

† **HYMN 218**

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

1. **ALL:** Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!

2. **MEN:** Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.

'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

3. WOMEN: Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.

4. CHOIR: For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation,
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

5. ALL: Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

OPENING PRAYER

Franklyn C. Pottorff

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Let us pray: (*A brief silence.*)

Most gracious God,
look with mercy upon your children gathered here
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed,
given into sinful hands,
and suffered death upon the cross.
Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals
as we enter the way of his passion;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

LESSON

Matthew 26:1-5

Agnes W. Norfleet

HOMILY

Agnes W. Norfleet

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

FIRST READING

Matthew 26:36–46

Rachel Pedersen

Jesus' disciples fall asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane.

First candle extinguished (in silence)

ANTHEM

O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile

Dale Wood

O come and mourn with me awhile; O come ye to the Savior's side; O come, together let us mourn; Jesus, our Lord, is crucified. Have we no tears to shed for Him, while soldiers scoff and foes deride? How patiently, how patiently He hangs; Jesus, our Lord, is crucified. Seven times He spoke, seven words of love; and all three hours His silence cried for mercy on the souls of men; Jesus, our Lord, is crucified. O love of God, O sin of man! In this dread act your strength is tried; And victory remains with love, for He, our Love, is crucified.

(F. W. Faber, 1814-1863)

SECOND READING

Matthew 26:47–56

Mary Steege

Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss.

Second candle extinguished (in silence)

ANTHEM

Hear Us, Holy Jesus

Dale Wood

Jesus, pitying the sighs of the thief, who near Thee dies, promising him Paradise:

Hear us, Holy Jesus. May we, in our guilt and shame, still Thy love and mercy claim, calling humbly on Thy Name: Hear us, Holy Jesus. May our hearts to Thee incline, looking from our cross to Thine; Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

(Thomas Benson Pollock, 1836-1896)

THIRD READING

Matthew 26:57-68

Franklyn C. Pottorff

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

Third candle extinguished (in silence)

ANTHEM At the Cross, Her Station Keeping Dale Wood
At the cross her station keeping stood the mournful Mother weeping, where He hung, the dying Lord; for her soul, of joy bereavèd, bowed with anguish, deeply grieved, felt the sharp and piercing sword. O how sad and sore distressèd now was she, that Mother blessèd of the sole-begotten one! Deep the woe of her affliction, when she saw the crucifixion of her ever-glorious Son. Jesus, may her deep devotion stir in me the same emotion, fount of love, Redeemer kind, that my heart fresh ardor gaining.

FOURTH READING Matthew 26:69-75 Rebecca Kirkpatrick
Peter's denial

Fourth candle extinguished (in silence)

ANTHEM Bound Upon the Accursed Tree Dale Wood
Bound upon the accursèd tree, faint and bleeding, who is He? By the eyes so pale and dim, streaming blood, and writhing limb, by the flesh with scourges torn, by the crown of twisted thorn, by the side so deeply pierced, by the baffled, burning thirst? Bound upon the accursèd tree, dread and awful, who is He? By the sun at noonday pale, shivering rocks, and rending veil? Lo! Beneath the blackened sky, hear His last and bitter cry. Crucified, we know Thee now: Son of God! 'tis Thou! 'tis Thou!

(Dean Milman, 1791-1868, adapted from "Stanzas for Good Friday")

FIFTH READING Matthew 27:15-26 Rachel Pedersen
Jesus before Pilate

Fifth candle extinguished (in silence)

ANTHEM Jesus, In Thy Thirst and Pain Dale Wood
Jesus, in Thy thirst and pain, while Thy wounds Thy life-blood drain, thirsting more our love to gain. Thirst for us in mercy still, all Thy holy work fulfill, satisfy Thy loving will. May we thirst Thy love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe where the healing waters flow.
(Thomas Benson Pollock, 1836-1896)

SIXTH READING

Matthew 27:27-44
The soldiers mock Jesus.

Franklyn C. Pottorff

Sixth candle extinguished (in silence)

ANTHEM

O Perfect Life of Love

Dale Wood

O perfect life of love! All, all is finished now, all that He left His throne above to do for us below. No pain that we can share but He has felt its smart; All forms of human grief and care have pierced that tender heart. In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me. O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

(Henry William Baker, 1821-1877)

SEVENTH READING

Matthew 27:45-50
The death of Jesus

Agnes W. Norfleet

Seventh candle extinguished (with the 'strepitus')

ANTHEM

Behold the Lamb of God

Dale Wood

Behold the Lamb of God, bowed down in bitter pain; to God His dying prayer ascends. In death, my Lord and Savior, may I cry with Thee: "My Father, I commend my spirit into Thy loving hands." I die in Thee.

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

(Silence will be observed while the bell tolls 33 times to signify each year of Jesus' life.)

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS RESTORED

Please remain seated.

HYMN 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

1. CHOIR: When I survey the wondrous cross
 on which the Prince of glory died,
 my richest gain I count but loss,
 and pour contempt on all my pride.

2. ALL: 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.

3. ALL: 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.

DISMISSAL

Mary Steege

One: May Jesus Christ
who for our sake became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross,
keep you and strengthen you.

All: Amen.

Each person is encouraged to pray and meditate as long as he or she desires, then to depart in silence. If you would like to receive anointing with oil and prayers for healing and wholeness, the Pastors will be in the front of the church following the service.

NOTES

The work presented by the Sanctuary Choir this evening
is Dale Wood's *Service of Darkness*.

BULLETIN COVER

Georges Rouault, "Obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross"
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Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

Franklyn C. Pottorff, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Stewardship

David B. Smith, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Mary Steege, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward L. Landin, Assistant Director of Music

Contact Information



Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

610-525-2821

www.bmpc.org

[Facebook.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.facebook.com/BrynMawrPres) • [Instagram.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.instagram.com/BrynMawrPres)

24/7 Answering Service for Pastoral Emergencies: 610-525-2821

Main Line Adult Day Center: 610-527-4220

The Middleton Center: 610-525-0766 • info@middletoncenter.org

The Weekday School (Preschool): 610-525-2821, ext. 8840