

St. James' -Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave., Kitchener, Ont. N2B 1K2

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



April 2, 2010
Tenebrae Service

7:00pm

ORGAN PRELUDE **I Gave My Life for Thee**

Philip P. Bliss, Arr. by Harold DeCou

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the service of Tenebrae, the Latin term for shadows. This is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. There are twelve candles, representing the twelve disciples, and a larger candle, representing Christ. The readings commemorate the last stages of Christ's life with us. We ask that when the service is completed that you remain in reflective silence until you are ready to leave. The Christ candle will be carried out to signify Christ's death. The organ will crash to signify agony. After a pause, the candle will return, as we are a people of the resurrection. Most importantly, we invite you to come back on Sunday, Easter Sunday, as the mood changes so dramatically, so intensely, that we know we have entered into a brave new covenant with Jesus Christ. The service will proceed unannounced. Let us begin our worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: And this is the judgment: that the truth has come into the world, and we loved our illusions, rather than reality.

All: **God is true: in God there is no falseness at all.**

One: For God was in Jesus, not to condemn the world, but to restore the world.

All: **Everyone who does evil hates the truth and does not live in the spirit of love. But all who do what is true, live in the Spirit. Come, let us worship in spirit and in truth.**

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
 that I may love what thou dost love,
 and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
 until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
 until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God: so shall I never die,
 but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

FIRST READING Shadow of Betrayal - Matthew 26:20-25

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; (21) and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." (22) And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" (23) He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. (24) The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." (25) Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

[Extinguish candle]

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Son of God among us.
 Thank you for every sign showing that you love us

SECOND READING Shadow of Desertion - Matthew 26:31-35

Then Jesus said to them. "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" (32) But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." (33) Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." (34) Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." (35) Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

[Extinguish candle]

THIRD READING Agony of the Soul - Luke 22:39-44

*He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. (40) When he reached the place, he said to them. "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." (41) Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, (42] "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." (43] Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. (44) In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.
[Extinguish candle]*

HYMN MV 166 Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ (verse 2)

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Child of Earth among us
Thank you for every sign showing that you love us

FOURTH READING Unshared Vigil - Mark 14:32-41

*They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." (33) He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. (34) And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." (35] And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. (36] He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." (37] He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? (38) Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (39] And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. (40] And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. (41] He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
[Extinguish candle]*

HYMN MV 166 Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ (verse 3)

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Word made Flesh among us,
Thank you for every sign showing that you love us.

FIFTH READING "Father, the hour is come" - John 17:1-6

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, (2) since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. (3) And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (4) I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. (5) So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. (6) "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

[Extinguish candle]

CHORAL REFLECTION MV 17 God in the Darkness
Words by Elizabeth J. Smith, Music by Colin Gibson

SIXTH READING "That they may all be one" - John 17:15-22

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. (16) They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. (17 –) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (18) As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (19) And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. (20) "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, (21) that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. f22] The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,

[Extinguish candle]

HYMN **145 O Sacred Head** (verse 1)

O sacred head, sore wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
how art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
how does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn!

SEVENTH READING Arrest in the Garden - John 18:1-5

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. (2) Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. (3) So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. (4) Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" (5) They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

[Extinguish candle]

HYMN **145 O Sacred Head** (verse 2)

Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the cruel pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Saviour, turn not from me thy face;
but look on me with favour, and grant to me thy grace.

EIGHTH READING Shadow of the Cross - Mark 15:16-20

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. (17) And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. (18) And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (19) They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. (20) After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

[In silence, the remaining four candles representing the disciples are extinguished.]

FINAL READING John 1:1-4, 14, 10, 12; 3:19

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being (4) in him was life, and the life was the

light of all people.(John 1:10) He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.(John 1:12) But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,(John 1:14) And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.(John 3:19) And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

HYMN

145 O Sacred Head (verse 3)

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and, should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

[Total Darkness except for the Christ Candle]

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, one of us betrayed you, another denied you, and all of us have forsaken you. Yet you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on a cross. Strengthen us so we do not turn aside, but follow you to the very end; for the final victory belongs to you. Amen

RECESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE *[Still burning]*

TOLLING OF THE BELL *[33 times]*

PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE *[Extinguished]*

*The people may leave
in darkness and silence as they are ready.*