

United Methodist Church at Absecon



All are Welcome!

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors!

2024 Holy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae

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Pastor: Rev. David L. Ledford, III Organist: Priscilla Cunningham
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The first part of the service will begin at 7 PM.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

People: Christ has prepared a feast of love.

Leader: Come all who hunger. Come all who thirst.

ALL: We come, like the disciples, confused, anxious and with our hearts and minds on the events to come.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will. We have broken your law, rebelled against your love and ignored the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray, free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

Confession and Pardon

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Christ has prepared a feast of love and forgiveness for you. Eat this bread, and drink this fruit of the vine. Jesus sacrificed himself for you at this table. Do this in remembrance of him.

*The next part of the service will begin at 7:30 PM.
Please close your browser window and then reopen it
in order to view the second part of tonight's service.
(This will refresh your browser.)*

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Just as the disciples and Jesus got up from the communion table on Thursday night, so do we. They were entering into a time of darkness. So we, too, enter into a time of darkness. Tenebrae is a Latin word that means darkness. We can only truly appreciate resurrection if we have been to the cross.

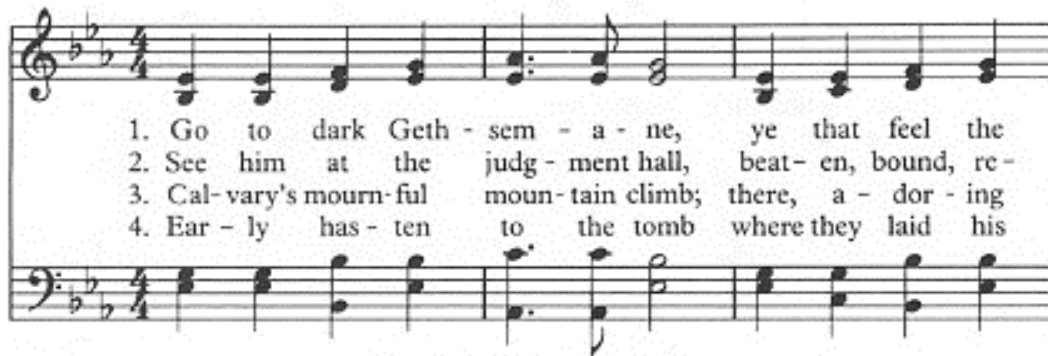
The Tenebrae service will take place in the sanctuary. The events of Thursday night and Friday morning will be acted out in front of us. After each stage, the sanctuary will get darker until Christ takes his last breath and all lights are off. There will be darkness, sudden loud noises and a lot of emotion. But, even in darkness, there is hope!

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son Jesus was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TONIGHT'S HYMNS

Go to Dark Gethsemane



1. Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, ye that feel the
2. See him at the judg - ment hall, beat - en, bound, re -
3. Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
4. Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his

temp - ter's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 viled, ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!
 at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He

griefs a - way; learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.
 hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes; Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Were You There

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the
 3. Were you there when they pierced him in the
 4. Were you there when the sun re - fused to
 5. Were you there when they laid him in the

(were you there)
 Lord? Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my
 tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the
 side? Were you there when they pierced him in the
 shine? Were you there when the sun refused to
 tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the

(were you there)

(were you there)
 Lord?
 tree?
 side? Oh!
 shine? sometimes it
 tomb?

(were you there)

caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.

(were you there)

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

(were you there)

STRIPPING THE ALTAR

All in attendance are now invited to help strip the altar. As they do, remember that Jesus' life, his dignity and his clothes were stripped away from him. Remember that life with Christ was being stripped away from the disciples. So now, with heavy hearts, we strip the altar. But there is good news and hope. Jesus is making all things new. But first, the things of old must be stripped away.

GOING FORTH

You may sit quietly for as long as you wish once the altar is stripped. There certainly is much to pray about.



EASTER SUNDAY

- 6:30 AM: Community SONrise Service at Heritage Park Gazebo
- 9:00 AM: Contemporary Service
- 9:45 AM: Sunday School
- 11:00 AM: Traditional Service