



Good Friday  
A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE  
A Dramatic Presentation of the Crucifixion  
March 29, 2024  
7:30 p.m.  
Yoseb Jeon, Pastor | Yoonjung Park, Pianist  
First United Methodist Church of Freehold

*The word “Tenebrae” comes from the Latin meaning “darkness”. The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus’ burial.*

Prelude

### SILENT PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

Welcome:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Call to Worship:

Leader: In sorrow, we gather this day.

**People: Even now, we proclaim our hope in Christ.**

Leader: In remembrance of his suffering, we gather to worship.

**People: Even now, we find rest in the courage of Christ.**

Leader: In contemplation and reflection, we gather to pray.

**People: Our faith and confidence in Christ are sure.**

\*Hymn:

“To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord”

UMH #285

\*Prayer of Approach:

**O merciful God, you did not spare your only Son, but offered him up for us all, that he might bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that we might so examine ourselves that we realize our own sinfulness, so great as to spiritually crucify him anew. Help us to recognize those nails which we drive into his cross today and transform us into more faithful disciples in his name. Amen.**

### THE NAILS OF THE CROSS

#### THE NAIL OF PRIDE

Reading:

Mark 12:38-40

Gayle Trulli

#### **Jesus Denounces the Scribes**

<sup>38</sup>As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

Meditation and Prayer (*beginning with silence*):

O God – help us consider our own pride where it leads.

**O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our pride hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

O God, we know too, that our pride hurts you.

### ***The Nail of Pride into the Cross***

Sung Response:

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

**Oh, Oh, Oh.... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;**

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

### **THE NAIL OF BETRAYAL**

Reading:

Matthew 26:47-56

Anne Mayer

### **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do."<sup>[a]</sup> Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Meditation and Prayer (*beginning with silence*):

O God – help us consider how we betray others, how we abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

**O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others.**

O God, we know too, that our betrayal hurts you.

### ***The Nail of Betrayal into the Cross***

Sung Response:

**Were you there when he walked the road alone? Were you there when he walked the road alone?**

**Oh, Oh, Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;**

**Were you there when he walked the road alone?**

## **THE NAIL OF ENVY**

Reading:

Matthew 20:20-28

Ray Ritchie

### **The Request of the Mother of James and John**

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. <sup>21</sup> And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." <sup>22</sup> But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"<sup>[a]</sup> They said to him, "We are able." <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>26</sup> It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

Meditation and Prayer (*beginning with silence*):

O God – help us consider how we envy others, how we desire more than we receive and seek to influence and rule over others.

**O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our envy hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

O God, we know too, that our envy hurts you.

### ***The Nail of Envy into the Cross***

Sung Response:

**Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes? Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?**

**Oh, Oh, Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;**

**Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?**

## **THE NAIL OF INDECISION**

Reading:

Matthew 27:20-24

Pamela Wentworth

<sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"<sup>[a]</sup> All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

### **Pilate Hands Jesus Over to Be Crucified**

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood;<sup>[b]</sup> see to it yourselves."

Meditation and Prayer (*beginning with silence*):

O God – help us consider how we water, how we seek to avoid responsibility and to blame others for our actions.

**O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our indecision hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

O God, we know too, that our indecision hurts you.

## ***The Nail of Indecision into the Cross***

Sung Response:

**Were you there when they nailed him to the cross? Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?  
Oh, Oh, Oh...Sometimes it cause me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?**

### **THE NAIL OF CRUELTY**

Reading:

Matthew 27:27-31, 39-42

Anita Ritchie

#### **The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,<sup>[a]</sup> and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided<sup>[a]</sup> him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself.<sup>[b]</sup> He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him."

Meditation and Prayer (*beginning with silence*):

O God – help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others and add to the evil that comes upon them.

**O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

O God, we know too, that our cruelty hurts you.

## ***The Nail of Cruelty into the Cross***

Sung Response:

**Were you there when they mocked the son of God? Were you there when they mocked the son of God?  
Oh, Oh, Oh...Sometime it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they mocked the son of God?**

### **THE NAIL OF HATRED**

Reading:

Luke 6:22, 32-35

Chloe Jeon

<sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you<sup>[a]</sup> on account of the Son of Man."

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.<sup>[a]</sup> Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked."

Meditation and Prayer (*beginning with silence*):

O God – help us consider how we show hate to others, how we fail to care for others and make distinctions among them.

**O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our hatred hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

O God, we know too, that our hatred hurts you.

### ***The Nail of Hatred into the Cross***

Sung Response:

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Oh, Oh, Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

### VIDEO REFLECTION

\*Hymn:

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

UMH #292

(v. 1, 2, 3)

### **THE RESPONSE**

ACT OF CONFESSION (From Isaiah 53:4-6)

Surely, he has borne our grief and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.

**He was wounded for our transgressions and he was bruised for our iniquities. Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole.**

All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

### **THE PROMISE OF MERCY**

RESPONSIVE READING (From Isaiah 53:7-13)

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

**By a perversion of justice, he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.**

They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

**Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.**

Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

**The righteous one, God’s servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.**

Therefore, I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

### **COME TO THE CROSS**

Come and touch the cross and have a moment of prayer.  
("Never Said a Mumblin' Word" – Ken Budka, Soloist)

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

The bell is rung 33 times in remembrance of Jesus' life on earth.

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

Lord God, you have given us everything.

**You have not held anything back, not even your only begotten son.**

With humble heart we thank you.

**In new hope we offer to you and for the work of salvation, our every gift and our very selves.**

Be pleased, O God, in the name of Jesus, to accept all that we offer at this time. Look upon the intentions of our hearts. Hear our prayers and in your love answer. Hear us now as we confess to you in silence. We ask all these things through him who taught us to pray to you, saying...

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**DEPART IN SILENCE AND DARKNESS**

**“To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord”**

**UMH #285**

(Verse 1)

To mock your reign, O dearest Lord,  
They made a crown of thorns;  
Set you with taunts along that road  
From which no one returns.  
They could not know, as we do now,  
How glorious is that crown;  
That thorns would flower upon your brow,  
Your sorrows heal our own.

(Verse 2)

In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord,  
They snatched a purple cloak;  
Your passion turned, for all they cared,  
Into a soldier’s joke.  
They could not know, as we do now,  
That though we merit blame,  
You will your robe of mercy throw  
Around our naked shame.

(Verse 3)

A sceptered reed, O patient Lord,  
They thrust into your hand,  
And acted out their grim charade  
To its appointed end.  
They could not know, as we do now,  
Though empires rise and fall,  
Your Kingdom shall not cease to grow  
Till love embraces all.

**“What Wondrous Love Is This”**

**UMH #292**

(Verse 1)

What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse  
For my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

(Verse 2)

What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this,  
That caused the Lord of life  
To lay aside his crown  
For my soul, for my soul,  
To lay aside his crown for my soul.

(Verse 3)

To God and to the Lamb  
I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb  
Who is the Great I Am,  
While millions join the theme  
I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme I will sing.