

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, the story we tell tonight is a story of the deepest love; love that would offer forgiveness even to the traitor at its right hand. The bread was for us; the cup, for us; the cross, for us; we are forgiven, not easily, but the hard way.

We are forgiven, not cheaply, but wholly. We are forgiven, and we are freed. Praise be to God. Amen

Solo *Were You There* Steve Torrence, Director of Music

Scripture 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Sermon *At The Table* Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Hymn *When I Survey the Wonderful Cross* #101

Communion

May God be with you,

And also with you.

Open your hearts to God this night.

We open them to the One whose heart is broken this night.

In the midst of uncertainty and fears, we will praise God.

Our thanks are offered to the One who walks and waits with us through long nights.

We stand at this table because it is an echo of another table: that table in an upper room in Jerusalem where Jesus sat with his 12 friends, friends who would betray, deny and fall away from him, friends he loved and laid down his life for.

The story of God is always the story of faithfulness, of going through the hard times together, of God's "yes" being louder than all our "maybes".

We remember how it all started, when God created the world, every precious beautiful bit of creation, God's own artwork, including us: but we rebelled, and did the one thing we were asked not to do and we hid from God in the garden. We were cast out of that garden, but not away from God's heart.

God sent us prophets to call out our disobedience, and to promise us that God is faithful still.

In time, Christ came to walk among us, to show us just how far God would go to prove his love for us. Christ read to us, taught us, healed us, fed us, prayed for us, cast demons out of us, grew tired like us, and at the end, gave us one last gift.

It was the last supper, but not the last meal that Christ would share with his disciples. Because yes, our faithlessness would sentence him to the cross and yes, the God who was bold enough to be human would die, and yes, the sky would darken, and the Temple curtain would be torn in two.

But God was still faithful. And three days later, Christ would rise again, to prove to us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God.

God is faithful. So faithful. Then, now, and forever. Amen.

Send your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup. Our Lord Jesus, on this night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this cup, do it in remembrance of me.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Please come forward to participate in communion.

Prayer

Hymn

What Wonderful Love is This

#85

Tenebrae Service

After communion, we will begin our Tenebrae service. Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering. The Tenebrae service is marked by readings from the Gospels and the gradual extinguishing of candles until a single candle, considered a symbol of Christ, remains. As each candle is extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering, sacrifice and death. At the end of the service, the Christ candle remains anticipating the joy of resurrection and God's final victory over death. The service ends in reflective silence.

A note for those who prefer joyful, upbeat services:

The Tenebrae service will feel uncomfortable, perhaps even questionable to you. "Why be sad when we know God raised Jesus from the grave?" you might ask. And we answer, "Yes! Hallelujah! We will joyfully celebrate this Good News on Easter morning."

But there is no Easter without Good Friday; no resurrection without a tomb; no tomb without the cross; no cross without suffering; and no suffering without our sin. The joyful grace we celebrate on Resurrection Sunday becomes more meaningful when we remember the great suffering and sacrifice Jesus endured for all.

The Shadow of Betrayal
Reading Mark 14:10-13, 16-21

Lisa Comstock

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit
Reading Luke 22:39-46

Marne Larson

The Shadow of Arrest
Reading John 18:1-8

Steve Hammond

The Shadow of Denial
Reading Luke 22:54-62

Mike Clemans

The Shadow of Accusation
Reading Mark 15:1-15

Lois Tysseling

The Shadow of Crucifixion
Reading Luke 23:32-43

Elizabeth Nelson

The Shadow of Death
Reading Matthew 27:45-54

Susan Davis

The Shadow of Burial
Reading Matthew 27:57-60

Martha Clemans

The sanctuary will have the banners lowered and the cross on the communion table will be covered in a shroud. Only the Christ candle will remain lit for the benediction.

Benediction

Mike Davis

The light is failing.

We are failing too.

Yet the ancient promise holds true.

God does miracles at night, and in just a few days,
the dawn will break.

The light of the world will rise.

And we will see new life.

Hold fast. The story is not over.

Amen.

Depart in Silence

Part of our liturgy comes from the Presbyterian Outlook, 2023 written by Carol Holbrook Prickett and provided for free distribution.

UPCOMING FPCE WORSHIP

Easter Sunrise Service Mukilteo Beach 6:30 am

Easter Deacons Brunch Westminster Hall 9:00 am

Easter Service Sanctuary 10:00 am

98 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6 D

Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153)
 Trans. James Waddell Alexander, 1830

Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
 Harm.. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1729

1. O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weigh'd down;
 2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer'd Was all for sin - ners' gain:
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est friend,

Now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown;
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, What bliss till now was Thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
 O make me Thine for - ev - er; And should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, Vouch - safe to me Thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love to Thee.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 101

HAMBURG LM

Isaac Watts, 1707

Lowell Mason, 1824

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
 3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a

Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

LENT

85

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9

Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Harm. *Cantate Domino*, 1980

American folk hymn, c. 1811

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

What won - drous love is this, O my soul!
 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;

What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
 To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be,

To bear the *heav - y cross for my soul, for my soul,
 While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
 And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

To bear the *heav - y cross for my soul!
 While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

*Or "dreadful curse" (as original text).