



**First Parish Church, Congregational
On the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts**

*Awaken to the Light and Love of God;
Be a Joyful Beacon to the World*

Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae Commemoration
Thursday, March 28, 2024
7:00pm

Many of the events surrounding the last days of Christ are shrouded in darkness. In the fourth century a solemn observance of the Lord's supper, known as "Tenebrae" (meaning "darkness" or "shadows") was celebrated. The Office of Tenebrae involves a symbolic extinguishing of lights, signifying the gathering forces of evil and the approach of Jesus' death. When all fall away, only Jesus, represented by the lone lit candle, remains faithful.

Prelude Go to Dark Gethsemane - Newman W. Powell (1919-2004)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Hymn Ah, Holy Jesus – #218, NCH

Welcome

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be with us this evening. Believe our confessions to be true for we have laid bare our souls and sinfulness which cannot be hidden from you. Forgive us, O Lord, and make us new again, we pray, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Scripture Reading John 13:1 -17, 31-35 Jason Smith

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during

supper³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God,⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am.¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Anthem God So Loved the World (from The Crucifixion) – John Stainer (1840-1901)/John iii, 16-17

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. God so loved the world that He gave

His only begotten Son, that who so believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God so loved the world.

Invitation to Holy Communion, Hand Washing and Tenebrae

Tonight we celebrate Holy Communion as it might first have been celebrated using unleavened bread and Intinction. Come forward, select a piece of bread, dip the tip of it into the cup and consume both elements together. You need not wait for the other participants.

Then, if you choose you may have your hands washed in a ritual manner by Rev. Katherine. This act reminds us that on the evening of the Last Supper, after the meal, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples as a symbol of his servanthood and the humility required of all disciples that we may be served by others.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

Almighty God, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance, when you enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. We thank you for the deep love of Jesus, which moved him to risk himself for the redemption of humanity; and for the grace we experience in receiving these symbols of the life he gave.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Solo I Know – Ed Bruce (1939-2021)

Rebecca Shrimpton, vocals; Simone Argento, vocals and guitar
I said, "God, I hurt." God said, "I know." "God, I get so depressed at times. He said, "That's why I gave you sunshine." I said, "God, my loved one died." God said, "So did mine." Oh God, mine was such a loss. He said, "They nailed mine to a cross."

Chorus: He said, "I know. Did I not make you? The covenant is sealed, I'll not forsake you. You're not alone, I'm all around you. My glory is revealed, my love surrounds you. I know."

I said, "But God, your loved one lives." And He said, "So does yours." I asked Him where they are tonight. He said, "Be at peace, my child, they are in my light."

Chorus

I said, "God, I hurt." And God said, "My child, I know"

Shadow of the Betrayer	Matthew 26:20 -25	Sue Parker
Shadow of the Desertion	Matthew 26:31 -35	Paul Lengieza
Agony of the Soul	Mark 14:32 -36	Jan Marshall

Solo The Crucifixion – Samuel Barber (1910-1981) (from 'Hermit Songs')
Paul Knox, solo

At the cry of the first bird they began to crucify Thee, O Swan!
Never shall lament cease because of that. It was like the parting of day from night. Ah, sore was the suffering borne by the body of Mary's Son, But sorer still to Him was the grief which for His sake came upon His mother.

The Hour is Come	John 17:1 -5	Steve Carhart
Unshared Vigil	Mark 14:37 -42	Jason Smith
Arrest at the Gate	Mark 14:43 -50	Jeff Bodmer - Turner

Solo Grief – William Grant Still (1895-1978), poem by Leroy V. Brant
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Weeping angel with pinions trailing and head bowed low in your hands,
mourning angel with heartstrings wailing for one who in death's hall stands.

Mourning angel silence your wailing and raise your head from your hands.
Weeping angel on your pinions trailing the white dove, promise, stands!
Weeping angel with pinions trailing and head bowed low in your hands,
mourning angel with heartstrings wailing for one who in death's hall stands.

Mourning angel silence your wailing and raise your head from your hands.
Weeping angel on your pinions trailing the white dove, promise, stands!

The Rooster Crows

Luke 22:54 -62

Jeanne

Westcott

Accusation and Trial

Mark 14:57 -64

Bethany Woods

Shadow of the Cross

Mark 15:16 -20

Paul Gudonis

Darkness

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Solo Were You There?- spiritual, arr. K. J. Murdock

Paul Knox, solo

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Our Deacon is Janet Groth .

Good Friday, March 29th at Noon

Community Easter Sunrise Service

Join Cornerstone Church, Emmanuel Church and First Parish Church for the Community Easter Sunrise Service 6:26am on Singing Beach.

Followed by the 33rd Annual Easter Sunrise Breakfast where there will be sausages, eggs, home fries, fruit, homemade muffins, English muffins, doughnuts, assorted juices, coffee, tea and milk. As usual all served free of charge but donations to defray the cost gratefully accepted. At the American Legion 14 Church St.

Easter worship at First Parish 10am worship leader, Rev. Katherine Schofield an Easter Choir, with trumpets and timpani led by Dr. Herman Weiss, and the First Parish Choir. Easter egg hunt following Easter worship!

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time.

Listening devices are available for those in need; they are at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to ask a Deacon should you need help.

You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester