



**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, April 2, 2026**  
**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** Go to Dark Gethsemane #158 PH

**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**

**Communion Anthem** Do This and Remember Me (from 'Once Upon a Tree') - Pepper Choplin (1957)

See, the table is set, the food is prepared. We gather to share this holy meal. Do this and remember me. Come and eat this bread; and take the cup; it will fill you up with my memory. Do this and remember me. And when your journey's long and all your strength is gone, when you wonder if my spirit is there. And though the world is cruel and evil forces rule, I will be with you. I will be with you forevermore. Though I go away, remember my friends, I'll see you again when in heaven we'll meet. Do this and remember me. Go and share the bread and offer the cup, there will be enough for all who believe.

## **Invitation to Holy Communion** Luke 22:14-20

### **We Share the Bread and the Cup**

#### **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** Pie Jesu – (from ‘Requiem’) – Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), sung in Latin

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

English translation: Pious Lord Jesus, give them everlasting rest.

**Shadow of the Betrayer** Matthew 26:20-25 Bethany Woods

**Shadow of the Desertion** Matthew 26:31-35 Paul Lengieza

**Agony of the Soul** Mark 14:32-36 Sue Parker

**Hymn** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross #224 NCH

**The Hour is Come** John 17:1-5 Jason Smith

**Unshared Vigil** Mark 14:37-42 Jeanne Westcott

**Arrest at the Gate** Mark 14:43-50 Steve Carhart

**Solo** Take My Mother Home - Hall Johnson (1888-1970)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I think I heard him say when he was struggling up the hill

I think I heard him say, Take My Mother Home

Then I'll die easy, Take My Mother Home

I'll die so easy, Take My Mother Home

I think I heard him say, when they was raffling off his clothes

I think I heard him say, Take My Mother Home

I think I heard him cry when they was nailing in the nails

I think I heard him cry, Take My Mother Home

I'll die this death on Calvary, ain't gonna die no more  
I'll die on Calvary, ain't gonna die no more, ain't gonna die no more  
I think I heard him say, when he was giving up the ghost  
I think I heard him say, please, Take My Mother Home  
Please, Take My Mother Home

**Accusation and Trial** Mark 14:55-65 Bethany Woods  
**Peter Denies Jesus** Mark 14:66-72 Paul Lengieza  
**Shadow of the Cross** Mark 15:16-20 Sue Parker

## **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  
Victor Ikpe, 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? Were you there when He rose up from the grave? Oh! Sometimes I feel like shouting Glory! Glory! Glory! Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

First Parish Church Congregational  
welcomes you to participate in these upcoming events.  
**Good Friday Service April 3, 12 Noon** First Parish Church Congregational  
**Easter Sunrise Ecumenical Service April 5, 6:18 AM,**  
Singing Beach and Community Breakfast at the Amaral Bailey  
Legion Post 113  
**Easter Worship April 5, 10 AM,**  
First Parish Church Congregational