

KING
The Truth
JESUS

CHRIST CRUCIFIED

The Lamb
*The Light
The Alpha and the Omega
Immanuel
THE WAY

MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tenebrae Service

April 15, 2021

GREETING

Leader: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Leader: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,

People: and we loved darkness rather than light.

OPENING HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

No. 297

OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

**Almighty God, graciously behold this your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing
to be betrayed into the hands of sinners,
and to suffer death upon the cross;**

**Who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

RECALLING THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

JESUS IS ARRESTED

JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES

PETER DENIES JESUS THE FIRST TIME

JESUS IS QUESTIONED BY THE HIGH PRIEST

PETER DENIES JESUS A THIRD TIME

JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE

PILATE QUESTIONS JESUS

THE PEOPLE DEMAND BARABBAS BE RELEASED

JESUS IS MOCKED AND BEATEN

THE PEOPLE DEMAND JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

THE CROSS OF JESUS

During this time of music, prayerfully consider the cost that Jesus paid for you as he hung on the cross. As you are able, you may come to the chancel rail and "take up" the three nails – symbolic of the nails driven through Jesus' hands and feet.

ANTHEM

Were You There?

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

THE SOLDIERS PART THE GARMENTS OF CHRIST

THE WOMEN BY THE CROSS

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

THE SOLDIERS PIERCE THE SIDE OF CHRIST

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

CLOSING OF THE BIBLE - Symbolizes the sealing of the tomb

DEPART IN SILENCE

Tenebrae Service

The service of worship tonight is taken from an early Christian service called Tenebrae. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows". Tonight we will experience only a small portion of Christ's pain and suffering the day of His crucifixion.

One of the most conspicuous features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. As it gets darker and darker we can reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real for Jesus that evening.

Toward the end of the service, the Christ candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of Jesus' death (Matthew 27) and his resurrection (Matthew 28:2). At the moment of the earthquake, the temple veil was torn apart, making the Holy of Holies exposed to public view. This is understood to represent God's change toward us with direct access to God, no longer requiring the ceremonial acts of the priests for our forgiveness of sin.

The hidden candle is then restored to its place, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. By this single light we all depart this service in silence.

**You are invited to attend our
Easter Services on
Sunday, April 17th
at
9:02 am in the Fellowship Hall
or
11:00 am in the Sanctuary**