

First Presbyterian Church

Service for Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020

7:30 p.m.



ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

Prayer for the Day

***O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ,
who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal.
Wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail,
but follow your Son through every trial,
and praise him always as Lord and Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.***

* Hymn 836 "Abide with Me"

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

***Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken,
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.
Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you.
In Jesus Christ you serve us freely,
but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others.
We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.
In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.***

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Matthew 26:20-30 *followed by silent reflection*

Second Lesson: Matthew 26:47-56

Sermon: "He Could Have, But He Did Not"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Special Music

"What Wondrous Love is This"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

All are invited to partake in their homes.

Prayer after Communion

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE (SHADOWS)

Lesson: Psalm 69:1-9

Each lesson will be followed by a brief silence and the extinguishing of lights.

Lesson: Psalm 70

Lesson: Psalm 74:10-12, 18-23

Lesson: Lamentations 1:1-5

Lesson: Psalm 63:1-8

Lesson: Psalm 143

Lesson: Psalm 31:1-5

Tolling of the Bell

You are invited to sit in darkness as the bell tolls thirty-three times.

Dismissal

**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA
(570) 586-6306 www.fpccs.org**

Worship Leaders: Chris Norton, Judy Cutler, Rev. Jim Thyren, Jan Thyren, Frank Jones, Rev. Bill Carter

Join us for a Good Friday service at 12:00 noon and Easter worship at 10:00 a.m.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 26:20-30

²⁰When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:47-56

⁴⁷While Jesus 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. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹Suddenly, 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. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Tenebrae Readings

Psalm 69:1-9

¹Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

²I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;

I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

³I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched.

My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

⁴More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; many are those who would destroy me, my enemies who accuse me falsely.

What I did not steal must I now restore?

⁵O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.

⁶Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me, O Lord GOD of hosts; do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of me, O God of Israel.

⁷It is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that shame has covered my face.

⁸I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children.

⁹It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me!

²Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life.

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

³Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

⁵But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

Psalm 74:10-12, 18-23

¹⁰How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever?

¹¹Why do you hold back your hand; why do you keep your hand in your bosom?

¹²Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth.

¹⁸Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs, and an impious people reviles your name.

¹⁹Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals;

do not forget the life of your poor forever.

²⁰Have regard for your covenant,

for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence.

²¹Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame; let the poor and needy praise your name.

²²Rise up, O God, plead your cause; remember how the impious scoff at you all day long.

²³Do not forget the clamor of your foes,

the uproar of your adversaries that goes up continually.

Lamentations 1:1-5

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. ²She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. ³Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude;

she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. ⁴The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. ⁵Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the LORD has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
³Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
⁴So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
⁶when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
⁷for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
⁸My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Psalm 143

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.
² Do not enter into judgement with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
³ For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
⁴ Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.
⁵ I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds,
I meditate on the works of your hands.
⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
⁷ Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
⁸ Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.
⁹ Save me, O LORD, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.
¹⁰ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.
¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life.
In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.
¹² In your steadfast love cut off my enemies,
and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.

Psalm 31:1-5

¹ In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
² Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.
³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.
⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.