

A Service of Worship on Good Friday, April 14, 2017 at the Oaklyn Baptist Church

Introduction: The following is a brief explanation of the type of service we will conduct on this Good Friday.

It is traditionally called a Tenebrae service. The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection.

There will be no sermon this evening. The message is in the singing of songs, in the reading of the passion, in the sharing of the Psalms and in the coming of the darkness.... for without the darkness of the cross, the resurrection is not possible.

A Greeting with Response:

L: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and we loved darkness rather than light.

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

L: For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

P: Every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light. But all who do what is true come to the light.

L: Come, let us worship in spirit and in truth.

Opening song: "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" #261

OVER

The Passion of our Lord:

- Reading One; First candle extinguished; Psalm 69:1-4b
- Reading Two; Second candle extinguished; Psalm 70:1-5
- Reading Three; Third candle extinguished; Psalm 71:1-4
- Reading Four; Fourth candle extinguished; Psalm 72:1-4
- Reading Five; Fifth candle extinguished; Psalm 73:6-11
- Reading Six; Sixth candle extinguished; Psalm 74:9-11
- Reading Seven; Seventh candle extinguished; Zechariah 11:10-13
- Reading Eight; Eighth candle extinguished; Psalm 74:22-23
- Reading Ninth; Ninth candle extinguished; Psalm 38:1-4
- Reading Ten; Tenth candle extinguished; Psalm 38:5-8
- Reading Eleventh; Eleventh candle extinguished; Psalm 38; 9-11

Congregational singing: "Were you there" #283

- Reading Twelve; Twelfth candle extinguished; Psalm 22:1-18

Reading of Isaiah 53:4-9

Final Words:

L: May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, strengthen you this night and in all your times of darkness.

P: Amen.

Exit of the Christ Candle...

Dismissal in silence