

## Shadows Around the Cross (A Service of Tenebrae)

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*Organ Prelude*  
*Entry of the Ministers*

**Officiant:** Let us praise God for the gift of his Son who became the light of the world.

**People:** We should thank Him that Christ came as a great light shining into a world darkened with sin.

**Officiant:** Let us never forget those shadows of evil which followed Him to the cross.

**People:** We remember that the power of Christ is greater than the power of evil and will eventually overcome it.

**All:** Father, help us to be aware of those events that caused Jesus to be taken to the cross. As we become mindful of those who confronted Him with betrayal, denial, rejection, injustice, torture, ridicule and solitude, we realize that these same traits might be found in our lives. Help us to re-examine our inner selves in this hour, as we reflect upon the lives of those who failed our Saviour. If we have crucified Him anew, grant us forgiveness and cleanse our lives of sin. Uplift us that we might see beyond the shadows of the cross, and find the spirit of Him who came as the light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Shadow of Betrayal:  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 26: 47-50  
Silence for Reflection  
Prayer (all standing)  
***The first candle is extinguished***

### There is a Green Hill Far Away

The Shadow of Denial:  
Scripture Reading: Luke 22: 54-62  
Silence for Reflection  
Prayer (all standing)  
***The second candle is extinguished***

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The Shadow of Rejection:  
Scripture Reading: Mark 15: 6-14  
Silence for Reflection  
Prayer (all standing)  
***The third candle is extinguished***

### O Holy Jesus How Hast Thou Offended?

The Shadow of Injustice:  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 24-26  
Silence for Reflection  
Prayer (all standing)  
***The fourth candle is extinguished***

### We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died

The Shadow of Torture:  
Scripture Reading: Mark 15: 16-20  
Silence for Reflection  
Prayer (all standing)  
***The fifth candle is extinguished***

### Where Are You God, We Long to Know

The Shadow of Ridicule:  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 39-44  
Silence for Reflection  
Prayer (all standing)  
***The sixth candle is extinguished***

## Alone Thou Goest Forth O Lord

### The Shadow of Solitude:

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 45-50

Silence for Reflection

Prayer (all standing)

### ***The seventh candle is carried away and returned***

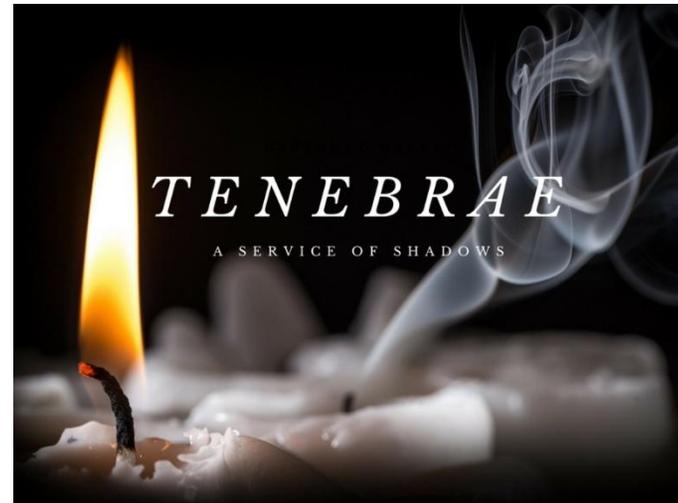
*All leave the church in silence*

**Tenebrae** is Latin for 'darkness'. It is an ancient service of worship dating back at least to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It is a service of readings and prayer originally designed to be used for Good Friday or at some other time in Holy Week. The readings tell the story of Christ's passion and for each reading, a candle is extinguished. It impresses upon our minds the tragic consequences of sin and the greatness of Jesus' sacrifice. As we see the pageant unfolding, we understand the betrayal, abandonment and loneliness of the Lord as he is crucified. We are graphically reminded of our own desertion of Jesus and the consequences of separation. The last candle is carried out of the church to signify Jesus' going into the tomb where he lay for three days. After a time of silence, it is returned, signifying our hope of resurrection. At the end of the service, the church is lit by only that one light and we are asked to leave the church quietly, without a hymn or blessing of any kind, signifying that we remember the Lord's sufferings for us.



## HOLY WEDNESDAY

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026



Rector: Rev'd Lori Ramsey



Wardens: Sarah Lennerton and Michael Sherren

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