



“Father, into  
**YOUR  
HANDS**

I commit  
my spirit!”

LUKE 23:46

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

At South Presbyterian Church on Good Friday

April 7, 2023

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

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### THE BACKGROUND

We are delighted that this evening finds you at worship with this congregation for a solemn observance that, as early as the fourth century, was known as *Tenebrae*. *Tenebrae* means “shadows” or “darkness” in Latin, so this becomes a Service of Shadows.

The gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles is symbolic of the flight of the disciples and friends of Jesus and the resentment of the world leading to the final isolation of Jesus on the cross. As we remember and re-live the unfolding of these events, we are reminded of our falling away and the consequence of separation from God.

As this liturgy calls for engagement and participation of the congregation, please note that **phrases in bold** are spoken by the congregation and at this symbol \* worshipers rise in body or in spirit as able.

As we focus our thoughts on the presence of God among us, we listen attentively to the Prelude while meditating on the prayer for today (the Collect):

*Even as you died, you forgave. Before we understood our need, you provided.*

*In life and in death, you above all are Lord of all.*

*When life is dark, and our world is chaotic,  
show us, O Lord, your hand still in control.*

*Remind us tonight of the depth of heaven's love*

*that through the cross brings light and life to our darkness. Amen.*

### THE PRELUDE

*Adagio*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Cynthia Powell, Interim Organist/Choir Director

### THE SALUTATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Osy Nüesch

Come to Gethsemane, where Jesus prays and is betrayed.

**Come to the courts of justice, to Pilate, where the righteous One is found guilty.**

Come to the hill outside Jerusalem, where the innocent One suffers and dies.

**Come, let us bow in awe, for what happens there is done for us.**

### \*THE HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

GtG #630

### THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Gracious and eternal God, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of his adversaries and to suffer death upon the cross.

**Hear the prayers we have come to offer tonight for all the family of humanity.**

Accept our grieving for the wrongs committed.

**As we stand at the foot of the cross,  
may we grasp the full miracle of its sacred cost.**

Help us to realize all that has already been accomplished,  
receiving in it a guarantee of what will yet be achieved.

**And through all we do tonight, grant us your love,  
that Christ's compassion may live on in us who, even in death,  
are called by his name. Amen.**

THE FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON

*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

p. 683

The Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

\*THE GOOD FRIDAY HYMN

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

GtG #221

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

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## THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

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The Shadow of Betrayal – *Luke 22:1-6*

Response: GtG #218 - *Ah, Holy Jesus* (2 stanzas only)

Allison McDonald-Tompkins  
the congregation

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit – *Matthew 26:36-44*

Response: *Stay with me, remain here with me,  
watch and pray – watch and pray*

Ken Stevens  
the congregation  
and Soloist

The Shadow of Arrest and Desertion – *Mark 14:43-50*

Response: *Shadows Lengthen into Night*

(Lyrics are found in the hymnal #206)

Kerry Schade  
South Church Choir  
Malcolm Couden, Soloist

The Shadow of Denial – *Mark 14:66-72*

\*Response: GtG #726 - *Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)*

Susan Woods  
the congregation

The Shadow of Treason – *Matthew 27:15-26*

Response: *Silent Meditation*

Bill Tompkins

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation – *Matthew 27:27-37*

Response: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

Anne Marie Wagner  
the congregation  
Malcolm Couden, Soloist

The Shadow of Death – *Luke 23:44-49*  
Response: *Contemplation of the Cross*

Bill Henderson  
James Allen, setting by K. Lee Scott  
South Church Choir

The Shadow of Burial – *John 19:38-42*  
Response: *The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross* +

Tara Henderson-LaStella

...but you have prepared a cross for your Savior:

**Holy God,  
Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.**

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## MEDITATION IN DARKNESS AND TOLLING OF THE BELL

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THE HYMN OF MEDITATION

*Were You There*

GtG #228

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## THE REMOVAL OF PARAMENTS AND VEILING OF SYMBOLS

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THE STREPITUS

(The **Strepitus** is created by the slamming shut of Bibles or hymnals, and symbolizes the sounds accompanying the death of Jesus – the earthquake and the closing of the tomb.)

THE CHARGE

(This service historically concludes **without a benediction** while the congregation is asked to **leave the Sanctuary in silence**, maintaining the spirit of solemnity in commemoration of the darkness of soul which Christ experienced. The congregation gathers next at the Great Vigil of Easter to reflect on how God's plans are fulfilled despite set-backs, obstacles and disappointments.)

### **Background on Other Historical Elements of this Service:**

**The Solemn Intercessions:** Bidding prayers for the whole family of God and the afflictions of the world are said. It is as if, in this prayer, we imagine ourselves with the small circle of people at the foot of the cross; but encountering God's love for us, we realize that our circle of care must grow ever wider.

**The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross:** These prayers come to us from the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The litany imagines God's lament at the manner in which humankind has treated Christ. Each stanza cites first one of God's benevolent gifts and our ungrateful response, and then concludes with the phrase: "But you have prepared a cross for your Savior." The people respond with the ancient prayer for forgiveness.