

DRAPING THE CROSS IN BLACK, SIGNIFYING JESUS' DEATH

SILENT PRAYER

THE LIGHT IS REMOVED

(After the choir has left the Sanctuary, you may depart in silence. Lights will be raised slightly for safety.)

Thank you for attending our service this evening. We hope and pray that you find this experience meaningful and inspiring. We also hope that it gives you a deeper understanding of the events leading up to Easter Sunday.

The offering plates will not be passed tonight. If you wish to make a financial offering, there are offering plates in the back of the sanctuary.

Participants

First Parish Sanctuary Choir
Nathan Cox, tenor
Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate
Gina Connolly, soprano

Easter Worship

March 31

6:15am - Sunrise Service-Nubble Lighthouse

First Parish Church

10am – Worship (*childcare available*)

11am - Easter Egg Hunt after worship

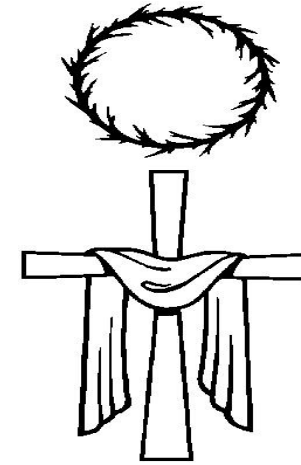
Our sincere thanks to all who have made this service possible.

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation
Rev. Eric Dupee
Rev. Dan Hollis

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries
Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate
First Parish Church Lay Leaders
John Covino, Moderator
Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator
Treasurer, Ray Hamlin
Clerk, Susan Mancinelli



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

March 29, 2024

You are about to participate in one of the oldest services in the Christian church. Tenebrae is Latin for “darkness.” As the service unfolds, the sanctuary will become darker, for we remember on this night that Christ, who is the light of the world, gave His life that we might overcome the powers of darkness and walk in His light. Why is it called Good Friday? Some sources suggest that it is a version of “God’s Friday.” The Oxford English Dictionary says that the term “good” denotes a day observed as holy by the church. Good Friday is one of the holiest days of the year across Christian denominations.

PRELUDE “GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC” (from *Parsifal*) Richard Wagner (1813-1883)
Adagio in G Minor Tommaso Albioni (1671-1750)

WELCOME Rev. Dan Hollis

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

We come together this evening to remember Christ’s life and death.

We come ready to hear the sacred story once again.

We gather, our hearts filled with gratitude and wonder.

We gather with joy and with tears.

Let us remember the cross, and the one placed upon it.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

OPENING HYMN “WERE YOU THERE?” No. 283

PRAYER (*unison*)

Rev. Eric Dupee

Grieving God, on the cross your Son embraced death even as he had embraced life: faithfully and with good courage. Make us steadfast witnesses of our Savior's reign, that we may live in the pattern of Christ, who was faithful in all things, even death, and whose darkest hour gives light and hope. In the shadow of the cross we pray: heal all division, reconcile the estranged, console the suffering, and raise up to new life all that is bound by death. In Christ's precious name, we pray this and the prayer he taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

HYMN "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS" (*verses 1 & 3*) No. 261

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Rev. Dan Hollis

HYMN "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS" (*verses 1 and 2*) No. 260

REFLECTIVE POEM ("Gethsemane," by Mary Oliver) Rev. Eric Dupee

HYMN "THERE IS A REDEEMER" No. 117

TENEBRAE SERVICE

FIRST READING

Shadow of Betrayal

Jerri LeConte

Matthew 26:20-25

"CHRIST, LET US COME WITH YOU" Murray and Gibson

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SECOND READING

Shadow of Desertion

Phyllis Giordano

Matthew 26:31-35

"WONDROUS LOVE" Arr., Eric H. Thiman

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

THIRD READING

Agony of the Soul

Sue Wierzba

Luke 22:39-44

"COME SEE THE PLACE WHERE JESUS PRAYED" Carter and Beall

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

FOURTH READING

Unshared Vigil

Gail Gilchrest

Mark 14:32-41

"BEHOLD, AND SEE" (from *Messiah*) G. F. Handel

Nathan Cox, soloist

FIFTH READING

"Father, the hour is come"

Phil Woodman

John 17:1-6

"THY WILL BE DONE" Craig Courtney

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SIXTH READING

"That they may all be one"

Shawn McCartee

John 17:15-22

"VIA DOLOROSA" Sprague and Borop

Gina Connolly, soloist

SEVENTH READING

Arrest in the Garden

Don Gough

John 18:1-12

"HE NEVER SAID A MUMBLIN' WORD"

Traditional Spiritual

EIGHTH READING

Shadow of the Cross

Rev. Dan Hollis

Luke 23:32-43

NINTH READING

Shadow of Death

Rev. Eric Dupee

Luke 23:44-48