

OFFERING

All of the offerings collected this week will be given to Oconee United Ministries. A box is located at the back of the sanctuary for you to drop offerings off upon entering or leaving.

TENEBRAE SERVICE

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae.

Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering.

Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death. Please enter humbly, worship deeply, and leave quietly this evening with your heart centered on the suffering of Christ for you and your salvation. You will observe a diminishing of light through the service in the pattern of tenebrae worship. Tenebrae means shadows, and so our worship will include an experience of some of the shadows that Christ endured. At the close of the service the bell will toll seven times to represent the fullness of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Good Friday

April 2, 2021

7:30 PM

The Approach to God

Prelude: "Were You There?"Traditional

***Call to Worship**.....Rev. Preston Shealy

Leader: So they took Jesus, and he went out carrying his own cross, to the place of a skull, called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

There they crucified him.

This is not a day for mourning but for awe, wonder, love and gratitude.

People: All you who bow in reverence, praise Him.

All you children of faith, glorify him.

All you people of faith, stand in awe before him.

***Hymn 85:** "What Wondrous Love Is This"Folk Hymn

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Dear God, The words of his disciple ring in our ears: I do not know this man The words of the crowd echo in our ears: We have no emperor but Caesar, Crucify him, Crucify him. And we long to think that if we had been there we wouldn't have denied him, we wouldn't have run, we wouldn't have abandoned him to the soldiers and spears. Yet in our moments of honesty we know that the crowd is us. We know that their words are ours. We feel it is true, because we run away from the crucifixions around us. We shout aloud in the din of vengeance and estrangement and hatred that makes our world. And the sound of the hammering of nails we replace by adding our own soundtrack to drown the cries of those who are crucified.

So God, on this day, this one day we ask that you let those sounds through so that the banging of the hammer draws blood in our soul, so we are touched just for this moment at least just for this one Good Friday moment with the pain. We name the pain, as the hammer falls on the nail. Bring forth your new creation now we ask. Not so that our guilt may be washed away, but so that the pain of each victim, of each heartbreak, of each loss May know your new day of joy.

In the spirit of him who was crucified whom we call the Christ who lives and reigns with you. Make it so, Easter God. Make it so.

(A moment of silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination.....Rev. Audrey H. Reese

New Testament Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God*

Sermon: Jesus Gets Us

SERVICE OF THE SHADOWS

The Shadow of Betrayal: Matthew 26:20-25

Hymn 93: "Ah, Holy Jesus" verses 1 and 4.....Cruger

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit and Arrest:

Luke 22:39-48, 54

Hymn 97: "Go to Dark Gethsemane" verses 2 and 3.....Redhead

The Shadow of Denial: Matthew 26:69-75

Hymn 84: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" v. 2.....Conkey

The Shadow of Accusation:

Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29

Hymn 98: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"Hassler

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation:

Matthew 27:31-43

Hymn 101: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"Mason

The Shadow of Death: Matthew 27:45-54

Hymn 102: "Were You There?"Spiritual

The Shadow of Burial: Matthew 27:57-60.....Rev. Reese

Anthem: "Benediction (*My Jesus, I Love Thee*)".....Raney

Benediction

**Congregation Standing*