

TENEBRAE SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro
April 14, 2022

PIANO PRELUDE Toni DiCapua
"Were You There"...Joel Raney

INTRODUCTION Rev. Anne Swanson

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN No. 92
"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

*INVOCATION Rev. George Swanson

ANTHEM Chancel Choir
"When You Prayed Beneath the Trees"...Lloyd Larson
Richard Dinwiddie, director; Mollie Wakeman, piano

THE HOURS IN THE UPPER ROOM Lou Pennebaker
Matthew 26:17-29

*COMMUNION HYMN No. 513
"Let Us Break Bread Together"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We here present ourselves to Thee, O Lord, our souls and bodies, to be a holy and living sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee that all who are partakers of this Holy Communion may be filled with Thy grace and Heavenly Benediction. And though we are unworthy to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Almighty God, we render Thee humble and hearty thanks that Thou hast, of Thine infinite mercy, given us Christ as mediator. And grant, we beseech Thee, O Faithful Lord, that through the operation of Thy Holy Spirit, this commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus may tend to the daily increase of our faith and of our redeeming fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN No. 101
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE (The Service of Shadows)

The readers represent the deserting disciples. The candle symbolizing Jesus is never extinguished but is carried from the church. After the people pray the Lord's Prayer, the service is concluded and in the spirit of the hour, people of the congregation leave the church in silence.

The Shadow of Betrayal George Swanson
The Shadow of Desertion Don Pollard

The Shadow of Slumber Laura Gile
The Shadow of the Unshared Vigil Jeanette Rauscher

The Shadow of the Hour Chad Pennebaker
The Shadow of the Arrest Lynn Roman

The Shadow of the Cross Shari Plunkett
The Shadow of Darkness Anne Swanson

SOLO Richard Jackson
"Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(The people leave in prayerful silence.)

When You Prayed Beneath the Trees

When you prayed beneath the trees, it was for me, O Lord;
When you cried upon your knees, how could it be, O Lord?
When in blood and sweat and tears,
You dismissed your final fears,
When you faced the soldiers' spears,
You stood for me, O Lord.

When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord;
When it seemed like your defeat, they could not see, O Lord!
When you faced the mob alone – you were silent as a stone,
And a tree became your throne; you came for me, O Lord.

When you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord;
When you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord;
When they lifted you on high, and they nailed you up to die,
And when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, O Lord.

TENEBRAE SERVICE

The Tenebrae Service, also called "The Service of Darkness," dates back to the early years of the Christian church and is the most solemn celebration of the Church. Tenebrae (the Latin word for "shadows") is usually observed on Good Friday, although it may also be observed on Maundy Thursday, along with remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples. It depicts the approaching crucifixion through the extinguishing of candles, the dimming of the sanctuary lights and the silent departure of the faithful.

People representing the deserting disciples read the various "shadows" from scripture. After all seven of the Tenebrae candles have been extinguished, the candle symbolizing Jesus is carried from the church. It is never extinguished, but is returned to the sanctuary on Easter morning, symbolizing Jesus' resurrection from the dead. After the people pray the Lord's Prayer, the service is concluded and in the spirit of the hour, people of the congregation leave the church in silence.

