

*Thank you for joining us.*



**We would like to thank:**

Minister: Rev. Tim Luoma

Music Director: Dr. Adrian Carr

*Mauudy  
Thursday  
Tenebrae Service*



*First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh*

## **The Seventh Light- The Darkness of Light**

Many of the events surrounding the last days in the life of Christ are shrouded in darkness. In the fourth century a solemn observance of the Lord's Supper, known as "Tenebrae" was celebrated. The service involved the extinguishing of candles as a reminder of the darkness that covered the earth after the passion and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The word Tenebrae means 'darkness'.

**The service begins in silence and ends in almost total darkness. The candles are gradually extinguished, symbolic of the gradual flight and denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus after the crucifixion. As we see the pageant unfolding, we are reminded of our own falling away and the consequences of separation from God. However, one light still remains; the light of Christ can never be extinguished. In that light we find forgiveness and fellowship in communion with our Lord.**

**The candles are arranged so that there is only one central candle, representing Christ and eight additional candles which will be extinguished one by one, leaving the church in almost total darkness. The one candle symbolizing Christ as the light of the world remains burning as the source of our light and hope.**

**Except for those assigned speaking parts in the service and the singing of hymns, the rule of silence is strictly observed, both on entering and leaving the church, with no greeting or conversation. Thank you.**

*“And this is the judgement that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light.” (John 3:19)*

*(During this period of silence, the organ will play several verses of a familiar hymn.)*

**Minister:** Let us read silently together.

Put out the light, Lord, it is too bright. I don't like the light, I feel more secure in the dark. The light reveals my every flaw, my every blemish. I must put on makeup to cover the imperfections in my skin; I must hide behind the veneer of things; I must not show my true emotions to speak without thinking; I must not touch or feel or show I care. Lord, I am afraid to say I love you. I want your warm arms about me in the night, Lord, but please put out the light.

## The Seventh Candle is Extinguished.

## **The Eighth Candle- The Darkness of The Cross**

**Minister:** And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” (Luke 23:26-28)

<b>Hymn</b>	“Were You There” (Verse 1)	#228
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**Minister:** Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”  
*(Luke 23:32-34)*

<b>Hymn</b>	“Were You There” (Verse 2)	#228
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**Minister:** It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit." And having said this he breathed his last. *(Luke 23:44-46)*

**Hymn**                      “Were You There” (Verse 3)                      #228

## The Eighth Candle Is Extinguished

## The Fifth Light- The Darkness of Broken Trust

**Minister:** His disciples said: “Ah, now you are speaking plainly, not in figure! Now we know that you know all things, and need none to question you: by this we believe that you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, every person to his home, and will leave me alone.”  
(John 16:29-32)

**People:** *Lord, when have we left you alone?*

**Minister:** “I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

**People:** *Lord, when have we left you alone?*

\*Hymn                      “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”                      #286

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

## The Sixth Light- The Darkness of Disunity

A Litany for Unity

**Minister:** Lord, we are all your servants here, all striving to be united in Christ, yet unable to unite with each other. We are able to read and speak the words of Paul:

**People:** *“Do your best to preserve the unity which the spirit gives, by the peace that binds you together. There is one body and one spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. There is one God and Father of all people, who is the Lord of all, works through all, and is in all.”*

**Minister:** But the meaning of the words is lost in our disputes over our differences. We have spent many years pointing out how each group differs from the other. Let us now give equal time to our similarities.

**People:** *We follow Christ that we might find you God. He is the path you set for us to walk, but we cannot tread that path alone.*

**Minister:** We need guidance from you and from each other.

**People:** *We follow the same path, the same teacher, the same God. Help us to respect our differences and work toward the oneness that we have in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished.

## Tenebrae

### *An Order of Holy Communion*

April 17th, 2025

## The Vigil of Darkness

### **Prelude**

### **Meditation Before Worship**

Love is captured in feeling, but expressed in relationship. Love is always acted out on the stage of life. The love of Christ is made real, not alone through thought, but through fellowship. In this expression of love, Christ gathered about him those who cherished his dreams, those who were called to witness, those who called him Master and Friend. We too come seeking relationship.

### **The Call to Worship**

**Minister:** For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he had borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

(Isaiah 53:2-5)

\*Hymn                      “My Faith Looks Up To Thee” (Verses 1 &3)                      #829

### **The Invocation and Prayer of Confession**

**Minister:** Let us pray, Oh God, this is a night filled with memory and hope. Let us remember.

**People:** *And so we remember that we are made of clay, molded in your image.*

**Minister:** We think about yesterday and sigh and we are anxious about tomorrow.

**People:** *May your presence fill the room and remove the guilt of yesterday and give us purpose for tomorrow. Remind us again that we are accepted.*

**Minister:** Make our acceptance of ourselves and each other complete, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## The Service of Candles

### The First Light- The Darkness of Betrayal

**Minister:** When it was evening, he sat at table with twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to the man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Is it I, Master?” He said to him, “You have said so.” *(Matthew 26:2-25)*

\*Hymn “Jesus Remember Me” (3 Times) #227

#### The First Light is Extinguished

### The Second Light- The Darkness of Desertion

**Minister:** Jesus said to them: “You will all fall away because of me this night.”

**People:** *Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.*

**Minister:** Jesus said to them: “Truly I say to you, this very night before the cock crows you will deny me three times.”

**People:** Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you.

\* Hymn “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” #221

#### The Second Candle is Extinguished

### The Third Light- The Agony of the Spirit

**Minister:** And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

\*Hymn “Go To Dark Gethsemane” (Verses 1-3) #220

#### The Third Candle is Extinguished

## The Fourth Light- The Darkness of Misunderstanding

**Minister:** And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the jar and poured it over his head. But there were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment thus wasted? For this ointment might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor.” They reproached her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.” *(Mark 14:3-6)*

\*Hymn “Just As I am, Without One Plea” (Verses 1&2) #442

#### The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

#### The Fellowship of Communion

**Minister:** We have seen ourselves in the darkness of the night, but the table is prepared and the host awaits. Let us join our brothers and sisters in this fellowship.

**People:** *This is what we have been looking for; this is what we mean by “God.” The waiting and the hoping is over. Let us celebrate.*

#### The Words of Institution

#### The Distribution of The Bread

#### The Distribution of The Cup

**Minister:** Say it loud, say it clear, for the whole world to hear.

**People:** *God is not dead. God is bread. God is bread. God is bread.*

**Minister:** God is bread for the poor and the rich, the haves and the have-nots.

**People:** *God is bread. The bread of peace, broken for all mankind.*

**Minister:** The wine of hope has been poured for all nations.

**People:** *The bread of peace the wine of hope, is her Lord in us. We will be strong, we will look up.*