



ABOUT THE SERVICE

This service is an extended meditation on the rejection, suffering and death of Jesus. The mood is somber and somewhat dark. In keeping with this theme, the sanctuary will be dim, so please be careful. This service will conclude with the stripping of the altar, an ancient practice that symbolizes the abandonment and desolation of the cross. Everyone is invited to participate. The cross will remain but be shrouded as a visible reminder of Christ's time in the tomb. After the shrouding, we will be free to leave. There will be no dismissal as a sign of waiting for the coming resurrection and to show the essential unity between the grief of Good Friday and the joy of Easter morn.

A Service of Tenebrae, or "Darkness," is based on a twelfth-century late night/early morning service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. There are a total of sixteen readings, and a candle on the altar is extinguished after each of the first fourteen. The readings are by James H. Charlesworth. He accurately translates John 18:1-19:42, with special sensitivity to Jews, Judaism, Jesus' Jewishness, and the Jewish origins of Christianity.

United Methodist Book of Worship, 354

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

APRIL 3, 2026 | 6:00 PM

PRELUDE

GREETING

John Crabtree

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER UMH 284

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

John Crabtree

CHOIR ANTHEM

Go to Dark Gethsemane

READING 1

Margaret Kruger

READING 2

Veray Mackley

READING 3

Terry Kerns

CHOIR ANTHEM

Ah, Holy Jesus

READING 4

Andy Wright

READING 5

Andy Wright

READING 6

Veray Mackley

HYMN UMH 297 VS 1, 2, 3

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

READING 7

Roger Kruger

READING 8

Mary Robinson

READING 9

Asher Milsap

HYMN UMH 292 VS 1, 3, 4

What Wondrous Love is This?

READING 10

Flo Bellamy

READING 11

Flo Bellamy

READING 12

Ina Bellamy

HYMN UMH 298 VS 1-4

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

READING 13

Brenda Peake

READING 14

Greg Kerns

HYMN UMH 288 VS 1, 2, 5

Were You There?

READING 15

Harmony Cadle

READING 16

John Crabtree

DISMISSAL IN DARKNESS AND SILENCE