

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

April 18, 2025 | 6:00 PM

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

THE SERVICE

Prelude

Greeting

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Good Friday Prayer

UMH 284

Prayers of the Community

Congregational Hymn 290

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Reading from the Gospel

John 18:1–19:42

Choir

Ah, Holy Jesus

Choir

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Choir

What Wondrous Love Is This

Choir

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Congregational Hymn 288

Were You There

Shrouding the Cross

Dismissal in Darkness and Silence