

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland



LAKE PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

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March 29, 2024
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Silent Meditation

GREETING (RESPONSIVE)

Pastor: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Pastor: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,

People: and we loved darkness rather than light.

OPENING SONG

Bless the Lord

Leader: Bless the Lord, my soul
and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

**All: (x5) Bless the Lord, my soul
and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Pastor: Blessed be our God.

People: Forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: With one voice, let us pray.

**All: Almighty God, graciously behold your family, for whom
our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands
of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Pastor: Let us be in silent meditation

Silent Meditation

PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Pastor: Dear People of God, our loving God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved; that all who believe in Him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with Him of everlasting life.

All: Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SONG

We Adore You, Lord Jesus Christ

Leader: Oh, oh, oh, we adore you Lord Jesus Christ
All: (x5) Oh, oh, oh, we adore you Lord Jesus Christ

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

SCRIPTURE

The Shadow of Betrayal

Mark 26:20-25

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

The first candle is extinguished.

SONG

Go to Dark Gethsemane

UMH 290 vs 1 & 2

- All: 1. Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2. See him at the judgement hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.**

SCRIPTURE

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit and Arrest

Matthew 26:36-50

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to

them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

The second candle is extinguished.

SONG

Stay with Me

Leader: Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.
**All: (x5) Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.**

SCRIPTURE

The Shadow of Denial

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment

the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

The third candle is extinguished.

SONG

O Lord, Hear my Prayer

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

All: (x5) O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

SCRIPTURE

The Shadow of Accusation

Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

The fourth candle is extinguished.

SONG

What Wondrous Love is This

UMH 292, vs 1 & 2

**All: 1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

**2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.**

SCRIPTURE

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation

Matthew 27:31-43

After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

The fifth candle is extinguished.

SONG

Jesus, Remember Me

Leader: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

All: (x5) Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

SCRIPTURE

The Shadow of Death

Matthew 27:45-54

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The sixth candle is extinguished.

SONG

Kyrie Eleison (Lord Have Mercy)

Leader: Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

All (x5) Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

SCRIPTURE

The Shadow of Burial

Matthew 27:57-60

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

The seventh candle is extinguished.

SONG

Were You There?

UMH 288, vs 1 & 5

All: 1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Silent Meditation

PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Pastor: Go in peace.

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you
this night and forever.

People: Amen.

All depart in silence

*Thank you to our worship leaders!
Stephanie Gameros, Ann Hege, Alex Banash, and Kathleen Bell*