

Service of Tenebrae and Communion

Organ Prelude

Welcome & Prayer

I. The Shadow of Betrayal:

Scripture:

Matthew 26:1-5; 14-19

Choir:

“Lamb of God”

1st candle extinguished

Scripture:

Matthew 26:20-25

Thought 1:

It is interesting that Judas was part of this group for so long and no one knew of his thievery and treachery; no one but Jesus. I remember this shadow of betrayal and I wonder, have I ever contemplated betraying my friend?

2nd candle extinguished

Communion

Scripture:

Matthew 26:26-28

3rd candle extinguished

Hymn

II. The Shadow of Desertion:

Scripture:

Matthew 26:30

Choir:

“Tis Midnight”

4th candle extinguished

Scripture:

Matthew 26:36-45

Thought 2:

We didn't understand what was going on. We had spoken bravely, but our courage had yet to be tested. I remember this shadow of desertion, and I wonder, when there's trouble again, will I run?

5th candle extinguished

Hymn

6th candle extinguished

III. The Shadow of Accusation and Denial:

Message

Scripture:

Luke 22:47-53; 54-62; Mark 14:55-65

7th candle extinguished

Choir:

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Thought 3:

I remember Peter’s denial and I wonder, will I stand by my friends in trouble, or will my loyalty be only in the good times?

8th candle extinguished

Thought 4:

I remember the mocking and scourging and I wonder, have I made fun of others? Have I been part of an accusation which denies a person’s dignity, by my silent witness?

9th candle extinguished

Thought 5:

We have become hardened to scenes of crucifixion and death. However, we cannot allow their familiarity to dull our hearts and minds to Christ’s crucifixion.

IV. The Shadow of Crucifixion:

Scripture:

Mark 15:1-32

Choir:

“The Old Rugged Cross”

10th candle extinguished

Hymn:

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Thought 6:

I remember the mob crying, “Crucify him!” and I remember Pilate washing his hands of responsibility and I wonder, was I ever part of a mob which acted by emotion, and did things that I would never have done alone? And have I been guilty of shirking my responsibility?

11th candle extinguished

V. The Shadow of Death:

Scripture:

Matthew 27:45-54

Hymn

Thought 7:

On this side of the cross, at this time of the year, you hear this part of the story knowing the ending. However, for us first century disciples it seemed as though a light had gone out, leaving only darkness and despair. Do you feel our darkness?

12th candle extinguished

VI. The Shadow of the Tomb and the Promise of New Life:

Scripture:

John 19:31-42

Choir:

“Where You There?”

Thought 8:

You, as Easter people, know that the dawn of the third day is coming. However, for us disciples there was no hope. The light of the world had left us. Our candle had gone out. Only you know what joy awaits us in three days. We leave to await the dawn.

Christ Candle taken out

Hymn

Closing Prayer

Mclvor Avenue Mennonite Brethren Church (Canada), 1990.

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