

St Matthew's Church, Chichester Road

Monday

Of Holy Week

**Taizé Service
With Tenebrae**



26th March 2018

Introduction

The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional sense of the passion story. It was originally designed for Good Friday, but it can be used on another day in Holy Week. It has long scripture narratives which for this service are divided into 8 parts.

The service can include hymns, sermon and communion but on this occasion we are interspersing the readings with chants from Taizé. After each reading one of the candles on the altar is snuffed out until only the Christ candle remains. At the end the Christ candle is put out, leaving the congregation in near total darkness – and near total devastation. At this point the service ends and the people leave in silence. (Some lights are turned up a little so you can see your way out.)

The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment and agony of the events and it is left unfinished because the story is not over until Easter Day.

Gathering

The light has come into the world,
and the world loved darkness
rather than light.

God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the

world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them unto the Lord.

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray

A brief silence.

Most gracious God,
look with mercy upon your
children gathered here
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ
was betrayed,
given into sinful hands,
and suffered death upon the
cross.

Strengthen our faith and forgive
our betrayals as we enter the way
of his passion;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, for
ever and ever.

Amen.

Reading

Revelation 6:12-17

When he opened the sixth seal, I
looked, and there came a great
earthquake; the sun became black
as sackcloth, the full moon
became like blood,¹³ and the stars
of the sky fell to the earth as the
fig tree drops its winter fruit

when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴The sky vanished like a scroll rolling itself up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵Then the kings of the earth and the magnates and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶calling to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; ¹⁷for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

Chant

La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre
devant toi;
la nuit comme la jour est lumière.

(Our darkness is never darkness
in your sight;
the deepest night is clear as the
daylight.)

The Shadow of Betrayal

Reading

Luke 22:1-6

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were

looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit

Reading:

Matthew 26:36-44

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.' ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' ³⁹And 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.' ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to

Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?' ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' ⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Chant

Stay with me.
Remain here with me.
Watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

The Shadow of Arrest

Reading

Mark 14:43-49

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and

arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?' ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.'

The Shadow of Desertion

Reading

Mark 14:50, 66-72

All of them deserted him and fled. ⁵¹A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, ⁵²but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by.

⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the

bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

Chant

Within our darkest night, You
kindle the fire
that never dies away,
That never dies away.

The Shadow of Accusation

Reading

Matthew 27:11-18, 21-26

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you,

Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

²¹The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' ²²Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' ²³Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

²⁴So 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.' ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Shadow of Crucifixion & Humiliation

Reading

Matthew 27:27-37

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered

the whole cohort around him.
²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and 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!' ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Chant

Jesus remember me
when you come into your
kingdom;
Jesus remember me
when you come into your
kingdom.

The Shadow of Death

Reading

Matthew 27:45-54

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And 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?' ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸At 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. ⁴⁹But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now 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 Shadow of Burial

Reading

John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Chant

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless
God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads
me into life.

Dismissal

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

We leave in silence

*Please take this service sheet with
you*

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