

## A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

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### GATHERING

*The people are asked to enter in silence and to sit quietly in prayer as you wait for the service to begin.*

**VIDEO:** It's Friday, But Sunday's Coming  
– SM Lockidge

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

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

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

*Pastor: The Light shines in the Darkness,*

**People: But the Darkness cannot extinguish the light!**

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

**People: and we loved darkness rather than light!**

*All: Forgive us we pray O Lord. Help us to see the light. Amen*

**\*HYMN:** “Grace greater than our sin” UMH #365

### \*INVOCATION

**SERMON:** “Death Row” Pastor Joshua

**\*HYMN:** “When I survey the Wondrous Cross”  
#298

## THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

### THE FIRST LESSON:

 Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial **Luke 22:31-38**

**Response:** Reader: “Lord, have mercy”

**People: “Christ, have mercy”**

*The First Candle is Extinguished*

### THE SECOND LESSON:

 Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

**Luke 22:39-46**

**Response:** Reader: “Lord, have mercy”

**People: “Christ, have mercy”**

*The Second Candle is Extinguished*

**HYMN:** “In the Garden” UMH #314

### THE THIRD LESSON:

 Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested **Luke 22:47-53**

**Response:** Reader: “Lord, have mercy”

**People: “Christ, have mercy”**

*The Third Candle is Extinguished*

### THE FOURTH LESSON:

 Peter Denies Jesus **Luke 22:54-65**

**Response:** Reader: “Lord, have mercy”

**People: “Christ, have mercy”**

*The Fourth Candle is Extinguished*

**HYMN:** Go to dark Gethsemane UMH #290

**THE FIFTH LESSON:**

📖 The Trial of Jesus Christ     **Luke 22:66-23:25**

**Response:** Reader: “Lord, have mercy”

**People:** “Christ, have mercy”

*The Fifth Candle is Extinguished*

**THE SIXTH LESSON:**

📖 The Crucifixion     **Luke 23:26-43**

**Response:** Reader: “Lord, have mercy”

**People:** “Christ, have mercy”

*The Sixth Candle is Extinguished*

**HYMN:**     Old Rugged Cross     UMH #504

**THE SEVENTH LESSON:**

📖 The Death of Jesus     **Luke 23:26-43**

**Response:** Reader: “Lord, have mercy”

**People:** “Christ, have mercy”

*The Christ Candle is Extinguished*

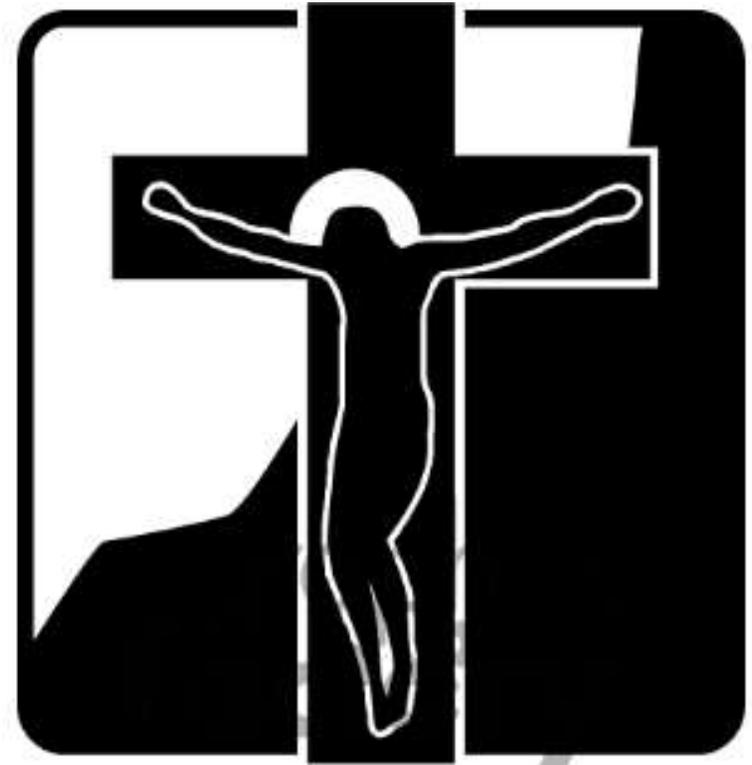
**THE EIGHTH LESSON:**

📖 The Burial of Jesus     **Luke 23:50-56**

*The Christ Candle is Carried Out*

*The People are asked to leave in silence. May this meditation on the cross impact your spirit so that the spirit of Christ may transform you into the likeness of our Savior.*

# A Service Of Tenebrae



**FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

New Hope Parrish  
of the  
United Methodist Church

## **The Tenebrae Service**

Tonight, we gather in this place as we reflect on the darkness of sin, death, and rebellion against God that led Christ to the cross and the hopelessness we find in the world when we are far from God. We close the service in darkness as the Christ candle is extinguished, symbolizing the death of Jesus. We end in darkness and silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection.

The word 'Tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story, so this is not supposed to be a joyful service, because the occasion is not happy. If your expectation of Christian worship is that it should always be happy and exhilarating, you will need to suspend your pre-conceived notions and allow the Holy Spirit to touch you in a new way.

The service is characterized by long scripture narratives, which for this service are divided into several smaller portions, each one assigned to a different reader.

The service will also include hymns, and a short message, but the core of the Tenebrae service works like this: It starts out with the church in candlelight. There are as many candles as there are readings, plus a white Christ candle. The readers go up one at a time, read their assigned selections, and extinguish one of the candles, until only the Christ candle

remains. After the last reading, the Christ candle is put out, leaving the congregation in near total darkness. When the service is complete the people leave in silence.

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

So why do we have such a service? Let me illustrate. If you see only the happy ending of a movie, everyone who saw it from the start is elated, but you go away saying, "So they were all hugging each other? So what?" But if you see the beginning and the middle part, with all the suspense and grief, you understand what the characters overcame, and the happy ending is all the happier. So to me, attending the Easter service without attending the Holy Week services is like watching the happy ending of the movie without seeing the middle—you only rob yourself of joy.

**Join us for our SON-rise Service 6:00  
a.m. Sunday with Breakfast to follow.  
At Magnolia UMC**