



Thursday 9th April 2020

Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae Service

Notes from our Thursday Evening
Pre-recorded Worship

Welcome and Explanation

Welcome to our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service. It's great to have you all with us. Especially if you don't normally come along to St Saviour's. We love having you here. Don't forget to grab a candle and matches if you have one and also some bread & wine too

Just for anyone who has not been to a service like this before I do want to say a few words of explanation.

What is Maundy Thursday?

If you are not sure what a Maundy Thursday service is – it's a time when Christians for many centuries have gathered to hear the story again as recorded in the bible of what happened on the last night of Jesus' life. We are going to use Matthew's account of the events as the source for our readings.

As we will hear this evening, in our readings, Jesus had a meal with his twelve close followers. He washed their feet and then gave them bread & wine and soon afterwards was betrayed by Judas and then arrested.

Remarkably Jesus knew all of this was going to happen and endured great suffering so that we might be able to know and experience the love of God today.

What is a Tenebrae Service?

The word 'Tenebrae' is Latin for darkness. A Tenebrae service takes place in candlelight. This helps us to increase the dramatic feel of the events of Jesus' last night which largely take place at night.

We have one candle for each of our 9 readings. After each reading, I will extinguish a candle and so as the evening goes, we will find ourselves in greater and greater darkness – to match the darkening story of Jesus last hours.

The central candle represents Jesus who is the light of the world.

The last reading is going to be the first part of Psalm 22, which Jesus quoted on the cross. After this reading, I will extinguish this candle leaving us all in near darkness.

If you have a candle, why not light it now?

Opening prayer

Ever-gracious God, we gather together tonight as Jesus' friends gathered with him in the Upper room, long ago. We come bearing the burdens of a broken world – especially at this time with the outbreak of the Coronavirus. We come from different geographical places, from different points on our spiritual journey, with different needs. We thank you that you welcome us all tonight. As we listen again to your story, we pray that you would renew and refresh us this evening and remind us of your love and care for us and for your world.

Amen.

Song

In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Reflection by Mike Norris

You may or may not know that last year I had some time off. The technical term was a sabbatical. I did all sorts of things but one of the highlights was going to a Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition at the Queens Gallery called "Leonardo: A Life in Drawing". As you know he drew some of the world's most famous pictures and paintings e.g. The Mona Lisa, The Vitruvian Man and The Last Supper.

In the last 6 years of his life, he drew a series of drawings of huge storms. The series of drawings are called the "Deluges". In his journal too at this time, he wrote of a cataclysmic storm overcoming a landscape. These pictures undoubtedly show his fascination with clouds rainwater dust and smoke.

Yet, this late expression is seen as Leonardo coming to terms with his own artistic end and the end of his life. All the while realising that some of his greatest creations, unfinished, decayed or destroyed. He died on 2 May 1519 and left a legacy of about 2000 drawings and his journals.

What on earth has all of this got to do with Jesus? As we catch up with the story of Jesus tonight, we too find him in a gathering storm, also facing the end of his life. The storm is brewing, his friends are sleeping and departing. He's not an old man. He's in his early 30s. He is disturbed and in anguish as he chooses to lay down his own life for the love and sake of the world. He will leave no drawing, but his legacy is the greatest legacy in the whole of history giving every person the opportunity to find life and life to full and experience eternal life.

Let's hear his story again as he approaches the end of his life.

Reading 1 - Matthew 26:17-25

17 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'

18 He replied, 'Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, "The Teacher says: my appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house."' 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.'

22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, 'Surely you don't mean me, Lord?'

23 Jesus replied, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.'

25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, 'Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?' Jesus answered, 'You have said so.'

Reading 2 - John 13:1-17

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Jesus washes his disciples' feet

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' 7 Jesus replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 8 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' 9 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'

10 Jesus answered, 'Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 13 'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Song

Here With Me

Verse 1

When darkness deepens the path unsure
The sun is hidden by the storms
I look to heaven and cry to Thee
O God be here with me

Chorus

In ev'ry breath ev'ry joy and tear
Ev'ry passing hour let me know You're near
In life in death for eternity
O God be here with me

Verse 2

When faith is shaken when fears surround
My feet will stand on solid ground
In ev'ry season my song will be
O God be here with me

Verse 3

And in that moment we're face to face
I will not need these eyes of faith
Forever after God I will see
That You've always been with me
Oh You've always been with me

O God be here with me

O God be here with me

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Reading 3 - Matthew 26:26-30

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Confession

Lord we thank you that you promise to forgive us when we confess our failings and mistakes to you. We thank you that you have separated us as far as the east is from the west from our sins and remember them no more. We receive your forgiveness now. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Agape Meal

1 Corinthians 11:23- 26

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Give yourself or share the bread & wine

Reading 4 - Matthew 26:31-35

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

31 Then Jesus told them, 'This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.'

33 Peter replied, 'Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.'

34 'Truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'this very night, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times.'

35 But Peter declared, 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.' And all the other disciples said the same.

Reading 5 - Matthew 26:36-46

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.' 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.' 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?' he asked Peter. 41 'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' 42 He went away a second time and prayed, 'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.' 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. 45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!'

Reading 6 - Matthew 26:47-56

Jesus arrested

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.' 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. 50 Jesus replied, 'Do what you came for, friend.' Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. 51 With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 52 'Put your sword back in its place,' Jesus said to him, 'for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?' 55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, 'Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Song

Hiding Place

Verse 1

In the depths of night
When the morning's light is hidden from my eyes
In the foaming sea
Where the fierce white horses crash in over me

Pre-Chorus

In the disarray in the disarray
You are holding me You are holding me

Chorus

God I know You're with me in the trials
You're with me in the night You are my hiding place
You're the harbour in the storm
A fortress through it all
You are my hiding place

Verse 2

When the battles rage
And the darkness doubts the promises You've made
Speak Oh Prince of Peace
Let Your words of truth come flooding over me

Bridge

God you rise to rescue me
In your light the darkness flees
You are singing over me
You surround me with your peace
Calm the chaos tame the seas
You are singing over me

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Reading 7 - Matthew 26: 57-68

Jesus Before the Sanhedrin

57 Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. 58 But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

59 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. 60 But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward 61 and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

62 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" 63 But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

64 "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. 66 What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

67 Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him 68 and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?"

Reading 8 - Matthew 26:69-75

69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

74 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Songs

There Is A Redeemer

Verse 1

There is a Redeemer Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God Messiah Holy One

Chorus

Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
Till the work on earth is done

Verse 2

Jesus my Redeemer name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah
O for sinners slain

Verse 3

When I stand in glory I will see His face
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place

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What A Beautiful Name

Verse 1

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

Chorus 1

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Verse 2

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

Chorus 2

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Bridge

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

Chorus 3

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Ending

What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Reading 9 - Psalm 22:1-11

For the director of music. To the tune of 'The Doe of the Morning'. A psalm of David.

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.

4 In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

7 All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

8 'He trusts in the Lord,' they say,
'let the Lord rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.'

9 Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

10 From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.

11 Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

Invitation for people to extinguish their candle.