

Racine Christian Reformed Church
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

"Jesus' Last Words"

Gathering Words

Opening Song: *"Meekness and Majesty"*

The Stone of Condemnation (Father Forgive...)

Reading: Luke 23:32-34; Psalm 22:16-18

Prayer

Silence

Song: *"Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"*

The Stone of Separation (Today, Paradise...)

Reading: Luke 23:35-43; Psalm 22:6-8

Prayer

Silence

Song: *"When I Survey"*

The Stone of Sorrow (Here is your Son/Mother...)

Reading: John 19:25-27; Psalm 22:9-11

Prayer

Silence

Song: *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

The Stone of Despair (My God...forsaken...)

Reading: Mark 15:33-34; Psalm 22: 1-2

Prayer

Silence

Song: *"Ah, Holy Jesus, How"*

The Stone of Distress (I am Thirsty...)

Reading: John 19:28-29; Psalm 22: 14-15

Meditation: *Feasting*

Prayer

Service of the Lord's Supper

Song: *"Behold the Lamb"*

The Stone of Triumph (It is Finished...)

Reading: John 19:30; Psalm 22:29

Prayer

Silence

Song: *"See the Destined Day Arise"*

The Stone of Death (Father into Your hands...)

Reading: Luke 23:44-49; Psalm 22:30-31

Prayer

Silence

Song: *"Were You There"*

We Leave in Silence

As you leave you are invited to place your stone beneath the Christ candle in the back – leaving behind your worries, letting go of the weight, marking an encounter with God, and remembering the time Jesus spent in the grave until Easter morning.

Welcome to all who have come to worship with us tonight. *The Service of the Shadows* (Tenebrae) is an adaptation of a worship that dates back to the 4th century. It is usually held on Maundy Thursday, to signify the gathering of darkness and gloom, preceding Good Friday. Our service this evening consists of Scripture readings, candles that will be extinguished, and passion songs. Whenever a song is projected on the screen, you are invited to sing along and think about the meaning.

In addition to the traditional elements each person may have received a stone. As the service proceeds, we invite you to hold this stone in your hand. Feel its weight, coldness, and texture. As the service proceeds, we invite you to symbolically place your fears, worries and concerns that may arise as you ponder the last words of Jesus. You may also be prompted by the Spirit to examine your heart, to consider areas of your life where your love for God is cold, where you are being disobedient to God's word, where you are resisting or blatantly rebelling against his very clear commands.

We invite you at each point to 'confess' your sins and symbolically project those sins to the stones that you are holding as a sign of repentance. Then, as the service concludes, we encourage you to lay your stone at the foot of the cross which is set up in the fellowship hall. This act of laying your stones is a reminder that Jesus has died on the cross to bear the weight of your sin. No matter who you are or what you have done, Jesus offers complete forgiveness of all our sins.

We also have the privilege of celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who earnestly desire to lead a godly life, ought to accept the invitation to partake with gladness in this communion.