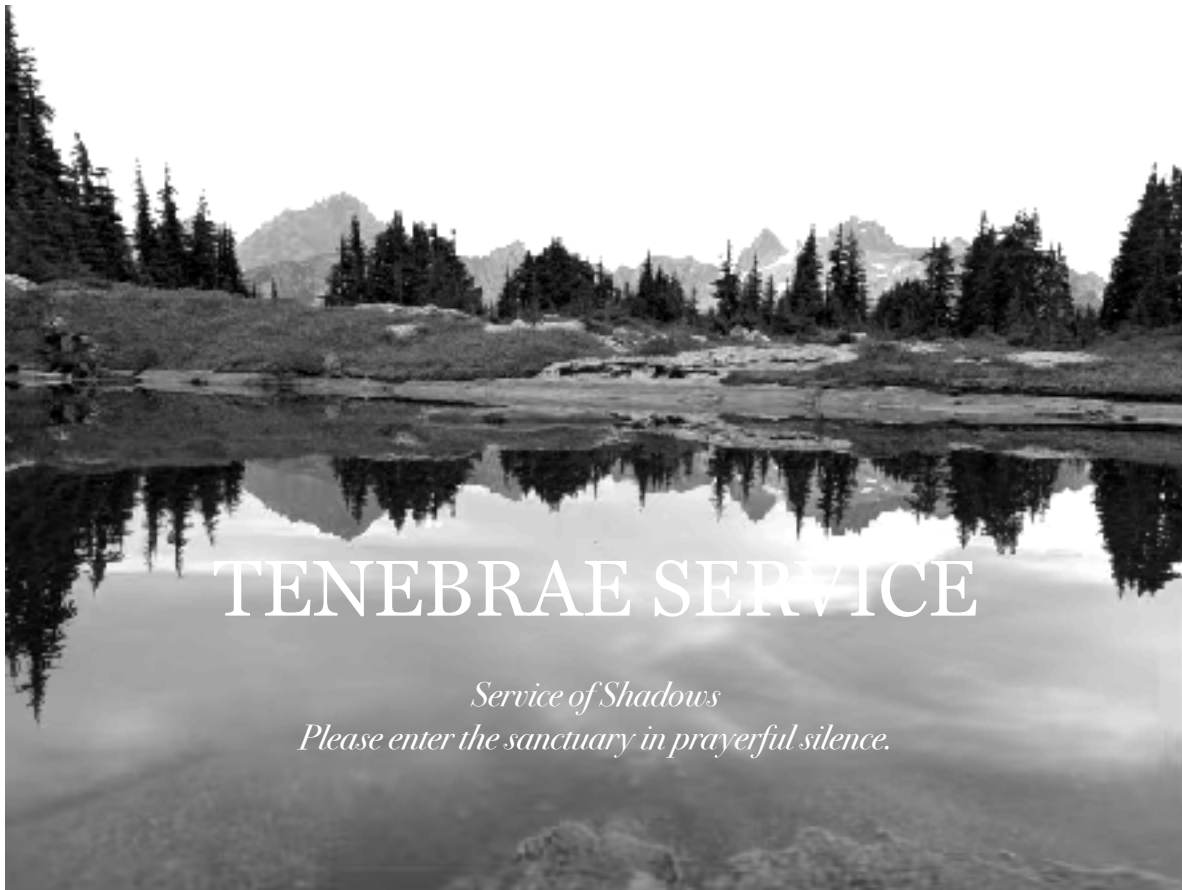




COVENANT
presbyterian church



TENEBRAE SERVICE

Service of Shadows

Please enter the sanctuary in prayerful silence.

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 3, 2026

TENEBRAE SERVICE

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” is a centuries-old worship practice which borrows its symbolism from the “darkness over the whole land” at the time of the crucifixion (Luke 23:44). Consequently, Tenebrae services are a prolonged meditation on the suffering of Christ and his atoning work on the Cross. Through the passion narratives of the Gospels, music of his pathos, the progressive darkness of the service, silence, and prayer, we have an opportunity to understand the nature and cost of sin, as well as the persevering love of Christ for his people. Near the end of the service the overwhelming sound of the “strepitus,” or earthquake, marks the cataclysmic end of that era before Christ had reconciled to himself all things, making peace by the blood of his Cross (Colossians 1:20). And finally, though the flame of the Christ candle is removed as a sign of burial, it is never extinguished. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5)!

*And being found in human form, he
humbled himself by becoming obedient to
the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Philippians 2:8

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

READING & HYMN OF RESPONSE | **Isaiah 52 & 53** | *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*
If you are able, please stand for the following four readings and the hymn.

READING | **Isaiah 52:13-53:3**

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!

'Tis the Christ by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!

'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord,
by his Son, God now has spoken: 'tis the true and faithful Word.

READING | **Isaiah 53:4-6**

Tell me, ye, who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?
Friends thro' fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress,
many hands were raised to wound him, none would interpose to save;
but the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that Justice gave.

READING | **Isaiah 53:7-9**

Ye who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose the evil great,
here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load,
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

READING | **Isaiah 53:10-12**

Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.

Thomas Kelly | Public Domain | CCLI#1095616/20146299

SONG OF REFLECTION

Meditation | *Come, O Sinner*

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL | **Matthew 26:1-5, 20-25**

Hymn #248 | *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*, vs. 1-2

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee:
I crucified thee.

THE SHADOW OF AGONY OF SPIRIT | **Mark 14:32-42**

Hymn #248 | *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*, vs. 3-4

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered:
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered:
or man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation:
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Text: Johann Heermann (1630) | Tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU | CCLI# 1095616/20146299

THE SHADOW OF ARREST AND DENIAL | **Luke 22:47-62**

Agnus Dei

** Men lead, women echo*

Jesus, Lamb of God (Jesus, Lamb of God)
Jesus, Lamb of God (Jesus, Lamb of God)
Have mercy, have mercy, have mercy on us;
Have mercy, have mercy, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God (Jesus, Lamb of God)
Jesus, Lamb of God (Jesus, Lamb of God)
Redeemer, Redeemer, grant us your peace;
Redeemer, Redeemer, grant us your peace.

Bearer of our sins (Bearer of our sins)
Bearer of our sins (Bearer of our sins)
Have mercy, have mercy, have mercy on us;
Have mercy, have mercy, have mercy on us.

Ross Hauck | Book of Common Worship | CCLI#1095616/20146299

THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION | **Matthew 27:1-2, 11-18, 21-31**

#247 | *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest Friend,
for this, thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain:
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
look on me with thy favor,
vouchsafe to me thy grace.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux; Tune: PASSION CHORALE; Composer: Hans Leo Hassler (1601); arr. by Johann Sebastian Bach (1729) | CCLI: 1095616/20146299

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION AND HUMILIATION | **Matthew 27:32-44**

How Deep the Father's Love for Us (vs. 1-2)

How deep the Father's love for us,	Behold the Man upon a cross,
How vast beyond all measure,	My sin upon his shoulders;
That he should give his only Son	Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
To make a wretch his treasure.	Call out among the scoffers.
How great the pain of searing loss;	It was my sin that held him there
The Father turns his face away,	Until it was accomplished;
As wounds which mar the Chosen One	His dying breath has brought me life –
Bring many sons to glory.	I know that it is finished.

Stuart Townend © 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music | CCLI#1095616/20146299

HOMILY | Rev. Mike Kelly

MEDITATION | *What Wondrous Love is This*

THE SHADOW OF DEATH | **Matthew 27:45-54**

At this time, you will be invited to come forward with a sin(s) written on a slip of paper to place in the box at the front. The two outside pew sections will come up first. Exit your pew toward the center of the sanctuary, starting with the first row. The middle two pew sections will come up together. Return to your pew and be seated. The papers will not be read by anyone and will be destroyed.

#252 | *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (vs. 1-3)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Streptus (earthquake)

THE SHADOW OF BURIAL | **Matthew 27:55-61**

Silence

Remain seated.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (vs. 4)

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts | Gregorian Chant; arr. Lowell Mason | CCLI#1095616/20146299

BENEDICTION

Please exit in silence.



If you're a visitor, welcome!

Resurrection Sunday | Sunday, April 5

9a - Potluck Breakfast | 10:15a - Morning Worship

Sundays at CPC:

9a - Sunday School (*through May*)

10:15a - Morning Worship

6p - Evening Prayer

Find out more: cpcissaquah.org

Pastor Mike Kelly

SCRIPTURE READINGS : The Holy Bible, English Standard Version © 2001 Crossway Bibles

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM: 1563; English Translation

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