

Tenebrae Service for Good Friday



The service of Tenebrae is one of the oldest in the Christian church.

The word “tenebrae” means “darkness” or “shadows”.

In this service, as the passion story unfolds, candles are extinguished to symbolise the advancing darkness that came over Jesus with the flight of the disciples, the bitter hatred of his enemies and the looming shadow of the cross.

After the story of Jesus’ death and burial has been told, only one light remains burning – the light of God’s love.

This light is then removed and the absence of light symbolises the darkness of Jesus’ death and his time in the tomb.

Welcome, Introduction and Lighting of Candles



**My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.**



**O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take, frail flesh and die?**



**He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed for Christ would know:**



**But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend.**



**Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:**



**Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.**



**Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight,**



**Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease, and 'gainst Him
rise.**



**They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they saved,
The Prince of life they slay,**



**Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.**



**In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave**



**What may I say? Heav'n was His home;
But mine the tomb wherein He lay.**



**Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.**



**This is my Friend, in Whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Last Verse



Prayer



The Shadow of Betrayal

The Word in Prophecy

Zechariah 11:10-14

The Passion Story

Matthew 26:14-25

Music: "The Last Supper" by Adrian Snell





Silence during which the first candle is extinguished.



The Shadow of Agony

The Word in Prophecy

Isaiah 53:10-11

The Passion Story

Matthew 26:31-46

Hymn 289: "When my love to Christ grows weak"



**When my love for Christ grows weak
When for deeper faith I seek
Then in thought I go to thee
Garden of Gesthemene**



**There I walk amid the shade
Where the dwindling twilight fades
See the friendless lonely one
Weeping praying all alone**



**When my love for men grows weak
When for stronger faith I seek
Hill of Calvary I go
To your scenes of fear and woe**



**There behold his agony,
suffered on the bitter tree;
see his anguish, see his faith,
love triumphant still in death.**



**Then to life I turn again
Learning all the worth of pain
Learning all the might that lies
In a full self sacrifice**



**And I praise with firmer faith
Christ who vanquished pain and death
And to Christ enthroned above
Raise a song of selfless love**

Last Verse



*Silence during which the second candle
is extinguished.*



The Shadow of Desertion

The Word in Prophecy Isaiah 53:6

The Passion Story Matthew 26:47-56

Music: “Steps of sorrow” by Simeon Wood





*Silence during which the third candle is
extinguished*



The Shadow of Denial

The Word in Prophecy

Isaiah 53:3

The Passion Story

Matthew 26:69-75

Hymn 286: “What kind of love is this?”



**What kind of love is this
that gave itself for me?**

**I am the guilty one,
yet I go free.**

**What kind of love is this,
a love I've never known;
I didn't even know his name –
what kind of love is this?**



**What kind of man is this,
that died in agony?
He who had done no wrong
was crucified for me.
What kind of man is this,
who laid aside his throne
that I may know the love of God –
what kind of man is this?**



**By grace I have been saved;
it is the gift of God.
He destined me to be his own
such is his love.
No eye has ever seen,
no ear has ever heard,
nor has the human heart conceived
what kind of love is this?**

Last Verse



*Silence during which the fourth candle is
extinguished.*



The Shadow of Accusation

The Word in Prophecy

Isaiah 53:7

The Passion Story

Matthew 27:11-31

Hymn 270: 'Come and see, come and see the King
of love'



**Come and see, come and see,
come and see the King of love;
see the purple robe and crown of thorns
He wears.**

**Soldiers mock, rulers sneer
as He lifts the cruel cross;
lone and friendless now, He climbs
towards the hill.**



**We worship at Your feet,
where wrath and mercy meet,
and a guilty world is washed by love's pure
stream.
For us He was made sin –
oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out, 'Father, forgive.'
I worship, I worship the Lamb who was slain.**

**Come and weep, come and mourn
for your sin that pierced Him there;
so much deeper than the wounds of thorn
and nail.**

**All our pride, all our greed,
all our fallenness and shame;
and the Lord has laid the punishment on
Him.**



**We worship at Your feet,
where wrath and mercy meet,
and a guilty world is washed by love's pure
stream.
For us He was made sin –
oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out, 'Father, forgive.'
I worship, I worship the Lamb who was slain.**

**Man of heaven, born to earth
to restore us to Your heaven.
Here we bow in awe beneath Your
searching eyes.
From Your tears comes our joy,
from Your death our life shall spring;
by Your resurrection power we shall rise.**



**We worship at Your feet,
where wrath and mercy meet,
and a guilty world is washed by love's pure
stream.
For us He was made sin –
oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out, 'Father, forgive.'
I worship, I worship the Lamb who was slain.**

Last Verse

***Silence during which the fifth candle is
extinguished***



The Shadow of Crucifixion

The Word in Prophecy

Isaiah 53:4-5

The Passion Story

Matthew 27:32-44

Music: “All you who pass this way” - Taizé





*Silence during which the sixth candle is
extinguished.*



The Shadow of Death

The Word in Prophecy

Isaiah 53:8

The Passion Story

Matthew 27:45-56

Hymn 287: “When I survey the wondrous cross”



**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?**



**His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.**



**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.**

Last Verse



Silence during which the seventh candle is extinguished.



The Shadow of the Tomb

The Word in Prophecy

Isaiah 53:9

The Passion Story

Matthew 27:57-61

Hymn 285: “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” (omit last verse)



**Were you there when they crucified my
Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my
Lord?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they crucified my
Lord?**



Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?



Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



*Silence during which the eighth candle is
extinguished.*



As “Agnus Dei” by Samuel Barber is played, the central candle symbolising the light of God’s love is carried from the church.

Please maintain silence for a few minutes after the music has ended.





