

***Tenebrae Service***  
**April 14, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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Prayer of Preparation (*for silent meditation before worship*)

Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross. Save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing him who died for us, we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME

Belinda Kerchner

PRAYER OF ADORATION & THANKSGIVING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. Therefore, in the name of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –

**Let us worship God.**

\*OPENING HYMN #367      “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love ”

ANTHEM                      “Above All”    Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloche

\*HYMN #98                      “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

.... I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN #599    “Jesus, Remember Me” (*to be sung after each reading*)

....I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

....I made you branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

....I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

....I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

....I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

....I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

....I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

....I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

As our Savior taught let us boldly say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN #102

“Were You There?”

**Tenebrae**

- The Shadow of Betrayal
- The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit and Arrest
- The Shadow of Denial
- The Shadow of Accusation
- The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation
- The Shadow of Death
- The Shadow of Burial

**Removal of the Christ Candle**

Tolling of the Bell

*The bell will toll 33 times, representing Jesus’ years of life on earth.*

Return of the Christ Candle

**Following a time of silent reflection and prayer, worshipers may leave the sanctuary in silence.**

***TENEBRAE SERVICE***

*Tenebrae* begins the Three Days (or Triduum), remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. When we also celebrate the Lord’s Supper we remember the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

Historically, this was the traditional day in which those who had undergone a period of public penance under church discipline would be restored to full communion.

The final act of this service is the evocative stripping of the worship space. This is most effectively done in absolute silence, and in an unhurried, orderly fashion.

The visual aspect of the transformed worship space gives people a dramatic depiction of Christ’s desolation. The church remains bare until the Easter Vigil when the process is reversed and the worship space is “dressed” again.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

April 14, 2022

