

Celebration of Worship

April 21, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.

Maundy Thursday

We enter to worship;

we depart to serve

The Thursday of Holy Week is traditionally called “Maundy Thursday.” This term is derived from the Old French *mande* and from the Latin *mandatum novum*, “a new commandment.” The new commandment of Christ was to love one another and was given to his disciples on the night before his death (John 13:34).

Tonight, we will remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with His disciples in the context of Passover. This event, which reveals the holiness of all subsequent meals eaten in his name, institutes the mystery of his abiding redemptive presence in the church’s celebrations of the Lord’s Supper. The table is open to all who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

This evening also marks the beginning of the most solemn and joyful celebration of the entire Christian year. The themes of betrayal, horror, despair, and joy move us through the four days from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday.

Tonight’s service will close with Tenebrae, which commemorates the suffering and death of Christ. Dating from the 8th century, Tenebrae was originally celebrated on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week. Tenebrae is Latin for “shadows” and a Tenebrae service is one in which light fades into darkness, as the sanctuary is progressively darkened with the scripture readings. This is symbolic of the physical darkness that fell over the earth as the Son of God was crucified; symbolic of the fading spiritual light of the world as Christ, the light was leaving it; and symbolic of the fading loyalty of the disciples and our own betrayal of Christ. With its movement to darkness, the Tenebrae service prepares us to receive the Light of Easter morning—to celebrate the joyous news of the resurrection.

There will be a tolling of the bell at the end of the service, marking each of the 33 years of Jesus’ life. We will then be invited to leave the sanctuary in silence to allow for reflection on Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Call to Worship (from Lamentations 1:12, Isaiah 53:5)

Does this mean nothing to you, all who pass by:

Look, see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.

He was wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole,

and with His stripes we are healed.

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

Mrs. Jean Smith, Liturgist

Most gracious God,

look with mercy upon your family gathered here

for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed,

given into sinful hands,

and suffered death upon the cross.

Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals

as we enter the way of his passion;

through him who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen

◆ Hymn 101 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

◆ Call to Silent Prayer of Confession
(*Silent confession will conclude with “Amen.”*)

◆ Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Hear the good news! The proof of God’s amazing love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him.

Friends believe the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scripture Reading

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Meditation

“What Marks Us as Disciples” Dr. Dan Milford

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Breaking of the Bread

Prayer of Dedication

Tenebrae

Stripping of the Church

The Shadow of Temptation

First Lesson

Matthew 26:30-46

The Shadow of Betrayal

Second Lesson

Matthew 26:47-56

The Shadow of Denial

Third Lesson

Matthew 26:57-60, 69-75

Hymn 97 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

The Shadow of Conspiracy

Fourth Lesson

Matthew 27:1-5

The Shadow of Accusations

Fifth Lesson

Matthew 27:11-23

The Shadow of Injustice

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 27:24-31

Hymn 98 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

The Shadow of Mockery

Seventh Lesson

Matthew 27:32-44

The Shadow of Death

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 27:45-50

Words of Hope

Ninth Lesson

Matthew 27:51-54

Song of the Suffering Servant

Tenth Lesson

Isaiah 53:4-6

◆ Closing Hymn 102 “Were You There?” (Vs. 1-3)

◆ Tolling of the Bell

◆ Silent Prayer

◆ (*Indicates appropriate place for congregation to stand*)

The pottery communion set and candlelighters being used were given in memory of Paul and Marie Means by their sons.

Many thanks to Craig Castleberry (Director of Music) and Broadway Baptist for loaning us their bell again this year.

Maundy Thursday



*First Presbyterian Church
Sand Springs, Oklahoma*