

**BATHURST UNITING CHURCH**  
**9 APRIL 2020 – MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**TENEBRAE SERVICE (SERVICE OF SHADOWS)**

We are going to experience together the Tenebrae or Service of Shadows. We will hear seven readings to describe the different shadows experienced by Christ on this night and the following day: The Shadow of Betrayal; the Shadow of Inner Agony; The Shadow of Loneliness; The Shadow of Desertion: The Shadow of Accusation: The Shadow of Mockery; The Shadow of Death.

After each reading, the reader will say 'Lord, have mercy'. I would ask you to simply respond with the words: 'Christ, have mercy.'

You may then wish to pause for a brief time of silent reflection, before reading on...

Before we begin, you may like to light a candle of your own, as a symbol of Christ's presence with us – 'The light of the world'.

And following the reading from the Gospel of John, at the end of the service, you might like to extinguish that candle, remembering that Christ gave his life for the world...

We will begin with some quiet music.

[At home you may wish to play some quiet instrumental  
or reflective music of your own choice.]

[Introduction to 'Erbarme dich' from the *St Matthew Passion* by J S Bach]

## 1. THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL     Luke 22: 14–23, 33-34

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.

He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you, before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom comes.'

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

And he did the same with the cup after supper saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined. But woe to that one by whom he is betrayed...'

Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this. And Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!' Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you even know me...'

Lord, have mercy.

*(First candle is extinguished)*

**Christ have mercy**

## **2. THE SHADOW OF INNER AGONY**     Luke 22:39-44

Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him.

When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.'

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength.

In his anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Lord, have mercy.

*(Second candle is extinguished)*

**Christ have mercy**

### **3. THE SHADOW OF LONELINESS**     Matthew 26:40-45

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.'

Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Finally, he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.'

Lord, have mercy.

*(Third candle is extinguished)*

**Christ have mercy**

#### **4. THE SHADOW OF DESERTION** Luke 22:47–48, 54-61

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, do you betray me with a kiss?'...

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him!' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.'

A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am *not!*'

Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!'

At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.'

Lord, have mercy.

*(Fourth candle is extinguished)*

**Christ have mercy**

## 5. THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION Luke 22:66 – 23:5, 1316, 21

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together and they brought him to their council.

They said, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.'

All of them asked, 'Are you, then, the Son of God?'

He said to them, 'You say so.'

Then they said, 'What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!'

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate.

They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king!'

Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

He answered. 'You say so.'

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.'

But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

But they all shouted out together, 'Crucify, crucify him!'

Lord, have mercy.

*(Fifth candle is extinguished)*

**Christ have mercy**

## **6. THE SHADOW OF MOCKERY**    Luke 23:26, 32-38

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Messiah of God, the Chosen One!'

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' (There was also a written notice above him, which said: 'This is the King of the Jews.')

Even one of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'

Lord, have mercy.

*(Sixth candle is extinguished)*

**Christ have mercy**

## 7. THE SHADOW OF DEATH Luke 23:33-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'

Having said this, he breathed his last.

Lord, have mercy.

*(Seventh candle is extinguished)*

**Christ have mercy**

*Only the Christ candle remains.*

*Silence...*

### MUSIC

'Behold the Lamb of God' from *The Messiah* by George Frederick Handel  
Performed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square

Accessed at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ew55F\\_Sbz4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ew55F_Sbz4)

### FINAL READING

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. (John 1:1-4)

The light has come into the world, but people love the shadows rather than the light.

*The Christ candle is extinguished.*

*After a brief time of silent reflection and prayer, we rise – gently, holding the awareness of Christ's suffering, in solidarity with us, in our hearts – and depart...*

### MUSIC

'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?'  
Sung by Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White, with accompanist Phillip Fraser  
at Bathurst Uniting Church