



## **SERVICE OF SHADOWS**

# **Second Presbyterian Church**

**Lewis and Frederick Streets / P.O. Box 175**

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**Dr. Daniel S. Williams**

**Pastor**

**Service of Shadows (Tenebrae)**  
*Lessons, Hymns, and Reflections on the  
Seven Words of Jesus from the Cross*

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**GATHERING**

WELCOME! Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning *shadows*. The name comes from the practice of the gradual extinction of candles and lights throughout the service. At the end, only one candle remains burning. This light symbolizes Christ's continuing presence, despite the shadow of the cross.

**PRELUDE**

**STRIKING THE HOUR**

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Surely Jesus has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

**P: Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

L: For us and our salvation, Christ became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

**P: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, who redeems us from sin and death.**

L: Let us worship God...

**\*HYMN** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" CB 320

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

A: **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.** (*Silent prayers of personal confession*)

L: If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Friends, believe the good news:

**P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## THE FIRST WORD

*“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 23:32-38  
**READING**

*Pew Bible p. 919*

A cradle and a cross  
And between these – a life  
Bethlehem and Jerusalem  
A birth and a death  
One “of sorrows”  
Who often wept  
One of joy who also kept  
Sensitivity and compassion  
Alive and real  
Tonight let us feel  
The surge of that life  
The beauty of that love  
The power of that cross

– Terence Elwyn Johnson

**CHOIR SPECIAL** “He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word” Chancel Choir  
*The first candle is extinguished*

## THE SECOND WORD

*“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 23:39-43  
**UNISON PRAYER**

*Pew Bible p. 919*

**Merciful God, creator of the peoples of the earth and lover of souls, have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ. Let your gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it. Turn the hearts of those who resist it, and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The second candle is extinguished*

## THE THIRD WORD

*“Dear woman, here is your son,” and to  
the disciple, “Here is your mother.”*

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 19:25-27

*Pew Bible p. 944*

### RESPONSIVE REFLECTION

L: Can you see her there, at the foot of the cross?

**P: Mary, the mother of Jesus, of whom it was once said, “Blessed are you among women.”**

L: As hard as it was to believe then, it was much harder now.

**P: Where was the blessing to be found in the tragic display before her eyes?**

L: Did Mary recall the words spoken to her when they presented the infant Jesus at the Temple?

**P: This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.**

L: Two lives, two hearts, both wounded, both appearing to be at the breaking point as the weight of the world crashed upon them.

**P: Once, the mother protected the son against the harsher realities of the world, in a crude manger scene.**

L: Now, the son cared for the mother, and showed her where the blessing would be found – in the love that binds us together as children of God in the great family of faith.

HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

CB 314

(Verses 1, 3)

*The third candle is extinguished*

## THE FOURTH WORD

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 27:45-49

*Pew Bible p. 865*

RESPONSIVE LESSON: Psalm 22:1-21 (selected)

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

**P: O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.**

L: Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

**P: In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.**

L: They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

**P: But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.**

L: All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

**P: “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”**

L: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

**P: Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.**

L: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

**P: My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.**

L: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

**P: I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**

L: But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

**P: Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.**

L: You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

**P: For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

## THE FIFTH WORD

*“I am thirsty.”*

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 19:28-29

*Pew Bible p. 944*

### UNISON PRAYER

**Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those in misery and need. In their afflictions show them your mercy, and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SILENT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The fifth candle is extinguished*

## THE SIXTH WORD

*“It is finished.”*

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 19:30

*Pew Bible p. 944*

RESPONSIVE LESSON Isaiah 53:4-4

L: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

**P: yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.**

L: But he was pierced for our transgressions,

**P: he was crushed for our iniquities;**

L: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

**P: and by his wounds we are healed.**

\*HYMN

“There Is a Redeemer”

CB 308

*The sixth candle is extinguished*

## THE SEVENTH WORD

*“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 23:44-49

*Pew Bible p. 919*

Mark 15:38-39

*Pew Bible p. 885*

CHOIR SPECIAL “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Chancel Choir

SILENT REFLECTION – One Minute

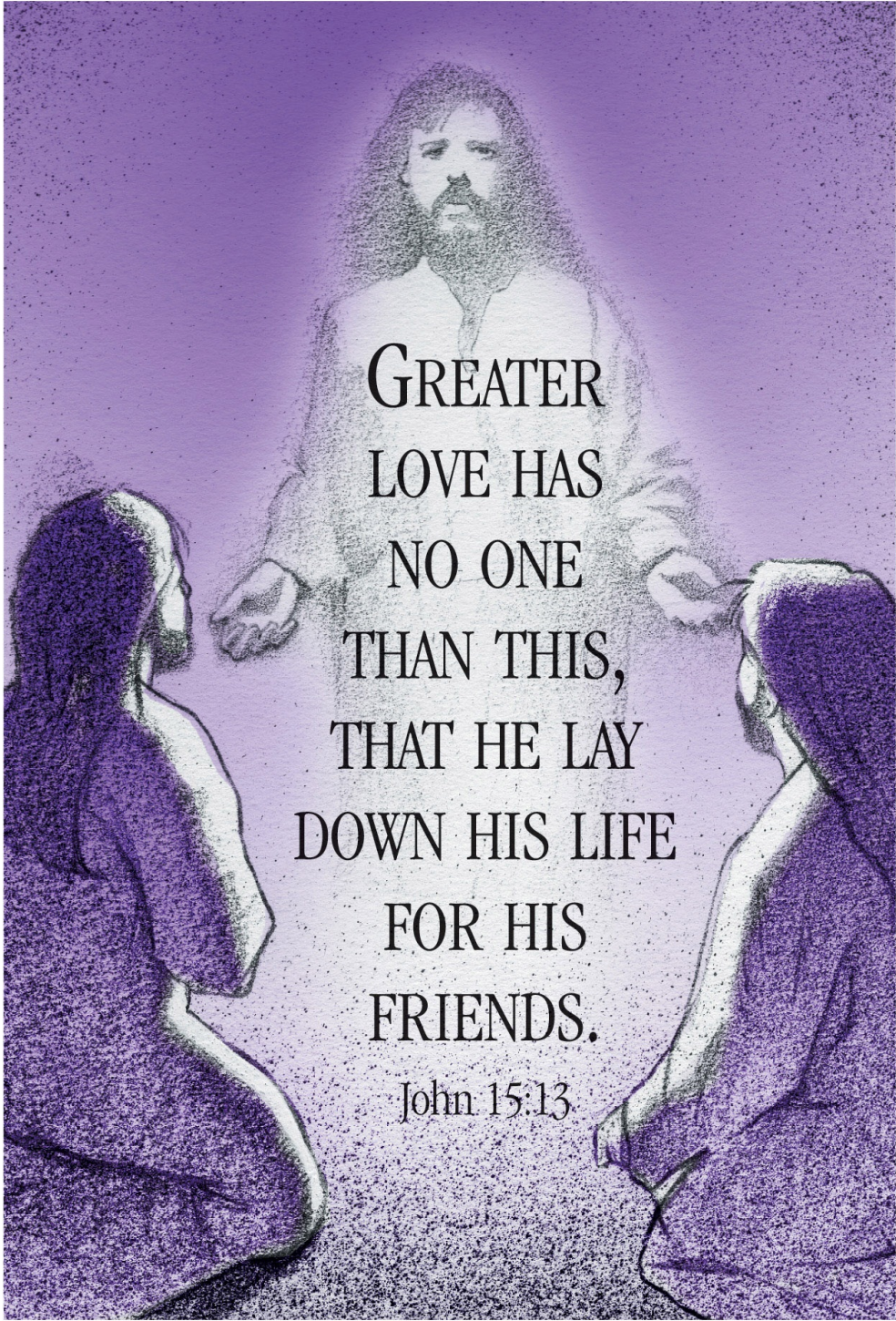
*The last candle remains burning.*

*This one light burns as the sign of the hope of Easter.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\* Congregation please stand, if able



GREATER  
LOVE HAS  
NO ONE  
THAN THIS,  
THAT HE LAY  
DOWN HIS LIFE  
FOR HIS  
FRIENDS.

John 15:13

## GOOD FRIDAY

“Here is your king,”  
Pilate said to the Jews.  
But they shouted,  
“Take him away!  
Take him away!  
Crucify him!”  
“Shall I crucify  
your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him,

and with him two others –  
one on each side and  
Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice  
prepared and fastened  
to the cross. It read:

JESUS OF NAZARETH,  
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Many of the Jews read  
this sign, for the place  
where Jesus was crucified  
was near the city, and  
the sign was written in  
Aramaic, Latin and Greek.

The chief priests of the Jews  
protested to Pilate, “Do not  
write ‘The King of the Jews,’  
but that this man claimed  
to be king of the Jews.”

Pilate answered, “What  
I have written, I have written.”