

Order of Worship

Prelude

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde gross, BWV 622 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
(O Man, bewail thy great sin)

Introit

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
"O Waly, Waly," English/Irish Folk Tune/arr. Dan Forrest
Molly Tucker, violin

Welcome

Rev. Will Burhans

Moment of Silence

The Call to Worship

Maggie Keeler

One: We are gathered tonight to recall the Last Supper that Jesus had with his friends and to remember the events that followed. Are you prepared to come to the table of the Lord?

One: Will you watch with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane?

All: By the grace of God, we will.

One: Will you follow Jesus, even on this night of his betrayal?

All: By the grace of God, we are ready. We will follow with our love and our prayers. God of grace and steadfast love, greatly is Your name to be praised.

Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross PH # 177

Call to Confession

Rev. Maeve Hammond

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Lord Jesus, we marvel at your passion and commitment to us. As we come to the table of your love and encounter the story of your passion again this night, we confess our desire for safety and security even if it comes at the expense of others' well-being. We confess our desire for affection and esteem even when it comes at the expense of truthfulness and integrity. We confess our desire for power and control even when it comes at the expense of our relationship with you. Forgive us O God and lead us through the valley of death to the fount of life, through Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

Words of Assurance

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Anthem

Were You There? [2000]

Raymond H. Haan/trad. spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when he bowed his head and died? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when he rose up from the tomb?
Johann Soultz, cello

The Service of Tenebrae

Jesus prays on Mount of Olives	Luke 22:39-46	Petra Sansom
Betrayal/Arrest of Jesus	Luke 22:47-53	Rich Crawford
Choir	<i>Dark Gethsemane</i>	HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Johann Crüger/arr. Lloyd Larson

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r; your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour. Turn not from His griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Peter Denies Jesus	Luke 22:54-62	Branda Wilhoite
Jesus before the Council	Luke 22:63-71	Carol Andrus
Choir	<i>Dark Gethsemane</i> (v. 2)	

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned. O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn of Him to bear the cross.

Jesus before Pilate	Luke 23:1-5	Janet Vaughn
Jesus before Herod	Luke 23:6-12	Andy Gallop
Choir	<i>Dark Gethsemane</i> (v. 3)	

Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet, mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished," hear Him cry. Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Jesus Sentenced to Death	Luke 23:13-25	Tony McPherson
Jesus led to Golgotha	Luke 23: 26-33	Kate Carpini
Choir	<i>Dark Gethsemane</i>	

"It is finished," hear Him cry. Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

The Crucifixion	Luke 23:34-43	Rev. Maeve Hammond
The Death	Luke 23:44-49	Rev. Will Burhans

The Christ Candle Extinguished

Silent Meditation

The Lord's Prayer

Re-lighting the Christ Candle and The Vigil Begins

Depart in silence

A note about the readings: Tonight's readings can be hard to hear, not only because they detail the suffering of Jesus, but also because they sound anti-Semitic, in that the death of Jesus is blamed, at least in part, on some of the religious leaders and "the crowd," most of whom were Jewish. It is important to state and remember that being Jewish is not what these readings condemn--Jesus himself and all of the disciples were Jews. What is *condemned* in these readings is the sin of closing our hearts to the Love of God, which is something we all do at times. Let us remember that our entire Bible—both Old and New Testaments—attests to the undying love of God for the people of Israel.

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, *An Open and Affirming Congregation*
21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180 www.fcc-winchester.org
We are a Christ-centered, nurturing community: growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.

The Congregation, Ministers To The World
Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor
Rev. Maeve Hammond, Associate Pastor
Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Worship & The Arts
Mrs. Maggie Keeler, Minister of Children and Families
Ms. Sarah Marino, Office Manager
Mr. Ed Banzy, Building Manager
Mr. Bill Lewis, Building Superintendent
Mr. Luis Forseca, Building Custodian
Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist

April 17, 2025

Maundy Thursday and Service of Tenebrae

Introducing the Service

In order to enter most fully into the spirit and mood of this evening's service, that of meditation and personal reflection, we ask that silence be observed by all worshippers. Use the time prior to the service as a time to enter into the presence of the One who welcomes us as we move in spirit into that Upper Room.

The Service of Tenebrae is an adaptation of an early 4th Century observance of Holy Communion. "Tenebrae" in Latin means "shadows": as the candles are extinguished, symbolic of the flight of the disciples, shadows and darkness come upon us. The total darkness recalls the time Christ was in the tomb, and the relighting of the Christ-candle is prophecy of the Easter so soon to dawn.

As this service ends the Good Friday Vigil begins. You are welcome to stay for as long as you'd like this evening or come back to the sanctuary for prayer at any point between now and noon tomorrow. You are also welcome to join us for a brief Good Friday service tomorrow at 12pm in the front of the sanctuary.