



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

**Order of Service**  
Thursday, 28 March 2024



# The Covenant Meal

**Tenebrae - Service of the Shadows**

A COMMUNION SERVICE  
FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

*This year we have observed the Sundays of Lent as the Season of the Covenant, "covenant" being the word for God's pledge of love and faithfulness made to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. We have looked at how the covenant stood firm but found new expression at different points in history.*

*Tonight's service looks at the special meal that the covenant people were commanded to hold. It was inaugurated on the night before they fled Egypt amid tension and grief. This Passover meal was celebrated many years later by Jesus and his disciples, with Jesus adapting it to reflect the new pledge of love and faithfulness expressed in his ministry. He said "This cup is the covenant in my blood".*

*In tonight's reflection we remember his last supper, and commit ourselves to be faithful to the new covenant.*

## Tenebrae

*Beloved in Christ:*

*Tenebrae (the service of the shadows) has been observed by the Christian Church from early times. The service commemorates Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper, his betrayal, trial and death. During the service the Church is gradually darkened, symbolizing the extinguishing of the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.*

*The latter part of the service features the reading of the Shadow Passages. After each of the first six passages, a candle is extinguished. There is a pause and the Kyrie is said.*

*The Kyrie is:*

Minister:	Lord have mercy
Congregation:	<b>CHRIST HAVE MERCY</b>
Minister:	Lord have mercy

*After the "Shadow of Death" reading, and the extinguishing of the last candle, the Kyrie is not said. Since there is no benediction, the extinguishing of the final candle marks the close of the service. Feel no pressure to leave the Church immediately after the service; the minister will not be waiting at the door. Please respect the quietness at the end of the service, and leave in silence.*

*You are welcome to receive communion here. Tonight we are using non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free bread.*

*It is good that you are here tonight. May God bless you as you worship.*

# The Service

**Silence:** We keep a silence in the church

## **Call to Prayer**

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your might.  
Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.  
Recite them to your children  
and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.  
Bind them as a sign on your hand,  
fix them as an emblem on your forehead,  
and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

*Deuteronomy 6: 4-9*

*Silence*

## **Prayer**

God of a faithful heart,  
time and again you have found ways  
to be faithful and true.  
You hang rainbows in the sky,  
you give the precious law  
to give care and structure to life;  
you give daily bread to desert people;  
you write your love on the human heart.

And now, you call us to a table  
where we shall meet Jesus, the Christ,  
who having loved us, now loves us to the end.  
In the light of his bravery, his determination,  
his emptying of himself,  
we will be fed in a deep new way.

**WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL BE IN OUR HEARTS,  
THAT WE MIGHT THIS NIGHT  
TAKE OUR PLACE AT HIS TRUE TABLE,  
BRINGING JOY TO HIS COVENANTING SOUL -  
FOR WE PRAY IT IN HIS NAME  
AND FOR HIS LOVE.  
AMEN.**

*Without announcement, we sing*

**Hymn:**

Diva Servatrix

*Bayeux Church Melody*



1. Now God, be with us, for the night is closing;  
the light and darkness are of thy disposing,  
and 'neath thy shadow here to rest we yield us,  
for thou wilt shield us.
2. Let evil thoughts and spirits flee before us;  
till morning cometh, watch, Protector, o'er us;  
in soul and body thou from harm defend us;  
thine angels send us.
3. Let holy thoughts be ours when sleep o'ertakes us;  
our earliest thoughts be thine when morning wakes us;  
all day serve thee, in all that we are doing  
thy praise pursuing.
4. We have no refuge, none on earth to aid us;  
save thee, Creator, who thine own hast made us;  
but thy dear presence will not leave them lonely  
who seek thee only.
5. Dear God, thy name be praised, thy kingdom given,  
thy will be done on earth as 'tis in heaven;  
keep us in life, forgive our sins, deliver  
us now and ever.

*Petrus Herbert (d. 1571)*

*translation: Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.*

**The Scripture Lesson:**

Exodus 12: 1-14

In this is the Word of God.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## The Reflection's First Part: Memories of Egypt

Music for Reflection: Chorale Prelude on 'Caswall'  
Peter Hurford (1930-2019)

## The Reflection's Second Part: The new covenant in my blood

Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at:  
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html> Hard copies of the sermons are available before and after the service – ask the person at the door. A video of this sermon being practised is available from 7:30pm today:  
<https://youtu.be/kg1aBnhJQH8>

*Without announcement, we sing*

### Hymn:

Seelenbräutigam

attrib. Adam Drese (1620-1701)



1. Round me falls the night;  
Saviour, be my light:  
through the hours in darkness shrouded  
let me see thy face unclouded;  
let thy glory shine  
in this heart of mine.
2. Earthly work is done,  
earthly sounds are none;  
rest in sleep and silence seeking,  
let me hear thee softly speaking;  
in my spirit's ear  
whisper "I am near".
3. Blessèd, heavenly Light,  
shining through earth's night;  
voice that oft of love hast told me;  
arms so strong to clasp and hold me;  
thou thy watch wilt keep,  
Saviour, o'er my sleep.

*William Romanis (1824-1899)*

## Intercessory Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

To the minister's words "Let us break bread together on our knees", you are invited to respond "**HEAR THE PRAYERS OF YOUR COVENANT PEOPLE**".

... **OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,  
YOUR KINGDOM COME,  
YOUR WILL BE DONE,  
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.  
FORGIVE US OUR SINS  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.  
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL  
AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.  
FOR THE KINGDOM,  
THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS  
NOW AND FOR EVER.  
AMEN.**

### Hymn:

Let us break bread

African American spiritual melody



1. Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
*Refrain:*  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord have mercy on me.
2. Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
*Refrain*
3. Let us praise God together on our knees.  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
*Refrain*

*Based on an African-American spiritual*

# The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## Communion Sentences:

And the Lord brought us out of Egypt  
with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,  
with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders.

*Deuteronomy 26:8*

What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord;  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

*Psalm 116: 12-14*

## The Institution

### The Setting Apart of the Elements

### The Great Eucharistic Prayer:

May God be with you.  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.**

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.  
**IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

It is right indeed . . .

## The Breaking of the Bread

### The Distribution

*Please come forward to the table, receive some bread, dip it in the grape juice,  
and, once you have finished, return to your seat.*

## A Time of Silence

And when they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

[Matt 26:30, Mark 14:26]

*Without announcement, we sing*

**Hymn:**

Tallis' Canon

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)



1. Now let us from this table rise  
renewed in body, mind and soul;  
with Christ we die and live again,  
his selfless love has made us whole.
2. With minds alert, upheld by grace,  
to spread the Word in speech and deed,  
we follow in the steps of Christ,  
at one with all in hope and need.
3. To fill each human house with love,  
it is the sacrament of care;  
the work that Christ began to do  
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.
4. Then give us courage, gracious God,  
to choose again the pilgrim way,  
and help us to accept with joy  
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

*Fred Kaan (1929-2009)*

## Into the Shadows

### The Shadow of Betrayal - read by Vivienne Boyd

In the evening he sat down with the twelve disciples; and during supper he said, "I tell you this: one of you will betray me!" In great distress they exclaimed one after the other, "Can you mean me Lord?" He answered, "One who has dipped his hand into this bowl with me will betray me!" Then Judas spoke, the one who was to betray him: "Rabbi, can you mean me?" Jesus replied, "The words are yours."

(The first candle is blown out)

Minister: Lord have mercy

Congregation: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Minister: Lord have mercy



### **The Shadow of Inner Agony** - read by Jennifer McKinnon

Then he went out and made this way as usual to the Mount of Olives, accompanied by his disciples. When he reached the place he said to them, "Pray that you may be spared the hour of testing." He himself withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down and began to pray: "Father, if it be thy will, take this cup away from me. Yet not my will, but thine be done." In anguish of spirit he prayed the more urgently; and his sweat was like clots of blood falling to the ground.

(The second candle is blown out)

Minister: Lord have mercy

Congregation: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Minister: Lord have mercy

### **The Shadow of Loneliness** - read by Linda Wilkins

He came to the disciples and found them asleep; and he said to Peter "So could none of you stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away a second time and prayed "Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." He came again and found them asleep, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, using the same words as before.

(The third candle is blown out)

Minister: Lord have mercy

Congregation: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Minister: Lord have mercy

### **The Shadow of Desertion** - read by Jean Brouwer

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, appeared; with him was a great crowd armed with swords and cudgels, sent by the chief priests and elders of the nation. The traitor gave them this sign. "The one I kiss is your man; seize him." And stepping forward at once he said "Hail Rabbi," and kissed him. Jesus replied "Friend do what you are here to do." They came forward, seized Jesus, and held him fast.

(The fourth candle is blown out)

Minister: Lord have mercy

Congregation: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Minister: Lord have mercy

### **The Shadow of Accusation** - read by *Janneke Nuysink*

The chief priests and the whole council tried to find some allegation against Jesus on which a death sentence could be based; but they failed to find one, though many came forward with false evidence. Finally, two men alleged that he had said “I can pull down the temple of God, and rebuild it in three days.” At this the High Priest rose and said to him, “Have you no answer to the charge that these witnesses bring against you?” But Jesus kept silence.

(The fifth candle is blown out)

Minister: Lord have mercy

Congregation: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Minister: Lord have mercy

### **The Shadow of Mockery** - read by *Norman Wilkins*

Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what shall I do with the man you call King of the Jews?” For he knew it was out of malice that they had brought Jesus before him. But the chief priests incited the crowd to ask him to release Barabbas rather than Jesus. Pilate spoke to them again: “Then what shall I do with the man you call King of the Jews?” They shouted back “Crucify him.” “Why, what harm has he done?” Pilate asked; but they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, in his desire to satisfy the mob, released Barabbas to them; and then he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers took him inside the courtyard and dressed him in purple, and plaiting a crown of thorns, placed it on his head. Then they began to salute him with “Hail, King of the Jews!”

(The sixth candle is blown out)

Minister: Lord have mercy

Congregation: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Minister: Lord have mercy

### **The Shadow of Death** - read by *Janet Wilson*

When they reached the place of the Skull, they crucified him there, and the criminals with him, one on his right and the other on the left. Jesus said “Father forgive them; they know not what they do.”

They divided his clothes among them by casting lots. The people stood looking on, and their rulers jeered at him: “He saved others; now let him save himself, if this is God’s Messiah, his chosen.” The soldiers joined in the mockery and came forward offering him their sour wine. “If you are the King of the Jews,” they said, “save yourself.” There was an inscription above his head which ran “This is the king of the Jews.”

By now it was about noon, and a darkness fell over the whole land, which lasted until three o'clock: the sun's light had failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus gave a loud cry and said "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit"; and with these words he died. The centurion saw it all, and gave praise to God. "Beyond all doubt," he said, "this man was innocent."

(The last candle is blown out)

## No Benediction

### **Good Friday** **The Covenant Broken**

29 March



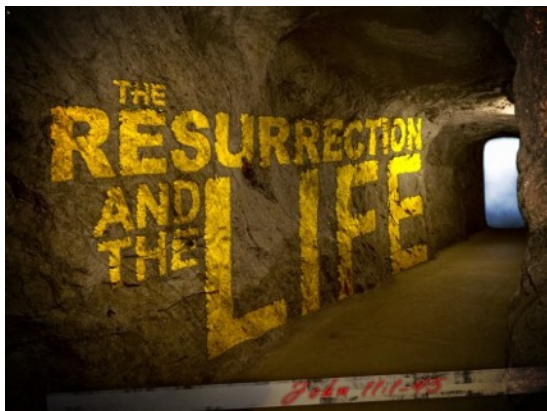
Psalm 22: 1-11

- A reflection on the question "My God, why have you forsaken me", as we consider the death of the Living Covenant Christ. His words speak for all forsaken people.

We read the full Passion Narrative from John's gospel.

### **Easter Day** **The Eternal Covenant**

31 March



The service begins with the reading of John's version of the Resurrection story.

Romans 6: 3-11 - As the news of the Resurrection of Jesus is shared with Jesus' people, God's covenant promise to humanity becomes the eternal, never-dying covenant.

We celebrate communion and sing some great Easter hymns.

# Knox Directory

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## Keeping in Touch

Please help us get acquainted with you by filling in this form  
and putting it in the offering bag.

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Contact details