

RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 20, 2008

7:00 p.m.

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Many of the events surrounding the last days of the life of Christ are shrouded in darkness. In the 4th Century, a solemn observance of the Lord's Supper, known as "Tenebrae," was celebrated. The service involved the extinguishing of candles as a reminder of the darkness that covered the earth after the passion and crucifixion of Jesus. The word Tenebrae means darkness.

The service begins in silence and ends in almost total darkness. The candles are gradually extinguished, symbolic of the flight and denial of the disciples. As we see the pageant unfold tonight, may we be reminded of our own falling away.

However, one light still remains; the light of Christ can never be extinguished. In that light, we find forgiveness and fellowship in communion with our Lord.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

L – God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

P – Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

L – And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,

P –and we loved darkness rather than light.

THE VIGIL OF DARKNESS

SILENCE

SCRIPTURE

SONG

Isaiah 53:1-6

"Our Darkness"

Taizé Chant

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the day light. (repeat)

THE FIRST CANDLE THE DARKNESS OF BETRAYAL

SCRIPTURE

HYMN

Matthew 26:20-25

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

#289

THE SECOND CANDLE THE DARKNESS OF DESERTION

SCRIPTURE

SONG

Luke 22:31-34

"Within Our Darkest Night"

Taizé Chant

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, never dies away.
Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, never dies away. (repeat)

THE THIRD CANDLE THE AGONY OF THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE LESSON

SONG

Luke 22:39-46

"Stay With Me"

Taizé Chant

Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray. (repeat)

THE FOURTH CANDLE THE DARKNESS OF MISUNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

SONG

Mark 14:3-8

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

Taizé Chant

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
When I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me. (repeat)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

**THE FIFTH CANDLE
THE DARKNESS OF LIGHT**

SCRIPTURE John 3:19
HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" #286

**THE SIXTH CANDLE
THE DARKNESS OF BROKEN TRUST**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 27:11-23
HYMN "Were You There?" #288

**THE SEVENTH CANDLE
THE DARKNESS OF THE CROSS**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 27:27-45
SONG "Jesus, Remember Me"
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

SILENCE & DARKNESS

CLOSING PRAYER

DEPART IN SILENCE

PIANO: Terri Weaver

FLUTE: Kristin Fleming