



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

Thursday, 17 April 2025



# Slave Food

**Tenebrae - Service of the Shadows**

A COMMUNION SERVICE  
FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

*This year, we have observed the Sundays of Lent as the Season of Slavery, looking towards Easter as the Season of Freedom.*

*We began Lent by looking at the formative part played by slavery in the identity of the people of Israel. We then looked at what part the hardened heart plays in the desire to enslave people. We looked at how the structures of slavery are built on lies, particularly lies about the worth of various people. We looked at the manifesto Jesus adopted at the beginning of his ministry - how the Jubilee concepts of freeing the indentured informed his work. We looked at a couple of stories of slaves made free. And we wondered, as Jesus made his triumphal entry to Jerusalem, how his humility ever was going to smash the powers of slavery.*

*Tonight's service looks at Passover, the special meal that the Hebrew people kept as a commemoration of their being freed from slavery in Egypt. We also look at how Jesus re-formed that meal with his disciples, on the eve of his Passion. As he speaks of freedom, we wonder about what will happen tomorrow for them all.*

# **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.*

# The Service

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

**Scripture Sentence:**

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labour in vain.  
Unless the Lord guards the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain.  
It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxiety,  
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

*Psalm 127: 1-2*

*Silence*

**Prayer**

The bread of anxiety . . .

Back in those olden days, O God,  
when your people were slaves in Egypt,  
what did they eat?  
No fine feast for them,  
of dates in honey  
or sweet delights.  
No pelican meat or ostrich egg.  
Just plain fare for slaves -  
and maybe the bread of anxiety.

Back in those olden days, O God,  
what was laid upon their table?  
No golden goblets or carafes of wine.  
No fine linen napkins -  
just the bread of anxiety.

They got up early,  
went to bed late,  
and in between ate the bread of anxiety.

On a Passover night,  
you called them to a different table,  
for a different food -  
the food of holy impatience,  
of rising moment,  
of bitter herb and sweeping out the door.

Bless us tonight,  
as we gather to receive the food of freedom,  
for we pray it in the name of Jesus.  
**AMEN.**

*Without announcement, we sing*

**Hymn:**

Love Unknown

John Ireland (1879-1962)



1. Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith  
that you alone provide the words of life and death:  
in wine and bread, in promised food  
we find your loving heart, O God.
2. Hands of the world stretch out, your mystery to touch  
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,  
to sing in joy, to cry in grief,  
to know your meaning for our life.
3. Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good,  
as though all humankind around one table stood,  
this bread to break, this wine to taste -  
one people in the name of Christ.

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

**The Scripture Lesson:** Exodus 12: 1-14

In this is the Word of God.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**The Reflection's First Part:** Does tomorrow bring freedom?

*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 reflection being practised is available from 7:30pm today:*

*<https://youtu.be/hwRelfMIZIU>*

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

**The Reflection's Second Part:** We wait and see

*Without announcement, we sing*

**Hymn:**

Martyrdom

*Nicholas Brady (1659-1726), alt.*



1. As pants the hart for cooling streams  
in parched and barren ways  
so longs my soul for you, O God,  
and your refreshing grace.
2. For you my God, the living God,  
my thirsting soul will pine:  
O when shall I behold your face,  
your majesty divine?
3. God of my strength, my tears have been  
by day and night my food;  
the mockers taunt continually  
and say: 'Where is your God?'
4. Why restless, why cast down, my soul?  
Hope still, and you shall sing  
the praise of him who is your God,  
your health's eternal spring.

*Nahum Tatae (1652-1715)*

**Intercessory Prayers and the Lord's Prayer**

*To the minister's words "Slave food",  
you are invited to respond **"WE WAIT FOR FREEDOM FOOD"**.*

**... 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.

*Psalms 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:

Repton

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)



1. Dear God, embracing humankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind:  
in purer lives your service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.
2. Drop your still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of your peace.
3. Breathe through the heats of our desire  
your coolness and your balm;

let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), alt.*

## 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 Neil Lambie

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 Jean Brouwer

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 Ian Bassett*

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 Janet Wilson

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 Brian Turner

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**

**The Service for Good Friday**  
10:00am, Friday 18 April, 2025

# Thirty Pieces of Silver



If Jesus' ministry was about smashing the structures of slavery, then being sold for thirty pieces of silver is a tragic outcome. On Good Friday, slavery appears to have won.

**Easter Day**

10:00am, Sunday 20 April, 2025

# Freedom - there he goes!



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## Keeping in Touch

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