

*A service of Tenebrae, or "darkness," is based on a 12<sup>th</sup> century late night service and is an extended meditation on the Passion of Christ.  
It is meant to put us in an attitude of prayer and reflection.*

\* Call to Worship (from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019*, © 2018 Abingdon Press)

One: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**ALL: We were the hollow echo of hosannas once spoken in love.**

One: Were you in the garden when the disciples fell asleep?

**ALL: We were the betrayal in Judas' kiss.**

One: Were you in the courtyard when the cock crowed?

**ALL: We were the denial on Peter's lips.**

One: Were you among the scoffers when Jesus was flogged?

**ALL: We were the whip in the soldier's hand.**

One: Were you in Pilate's chamber when he washed his hands of Jesus' fate?

**ALL: We were the hatred of the crowd, and the indifference in Pilate's heart.**

One: Were you with the powers of this world when the soldiers dressed Jesus as a king?

**ALL: We were the mockery in the crown of thorns.**

One: Were you among the spectators at Golgotha?

**ALL: We were the nails that pierced Jesus' hands and feet.**

One: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**ALL: We were the silence when no bird sang.**

\* Hymn #223 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (verses 1-2)

\* Prayer of Confession (from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019*, © 2018 Abingdon Press)

**Holy Mystery, our faith stands upon a knife's edge. We long to stand up for what we believe, but it is easier to wash our hands of responsibility and to blame others for our inaction. We yearn to take a principled and courageous stand, but it is easier to defer to the judgments of others and simply go along with the crowd. We dream of following Jesus to the end, but it is easier to slip into the darkness and betray the spirit striving within us. Forgive us, O God, and help us find our courage amidst the dying of the light. Amen.**

\* Hymn #223 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (verses 3-4)

***The Passion of Jesus Christ*** – *The Scripture readings tonight are from Matthew 26:17-27:66 (NRSV). The betrayal, arrest, trial, denial, sentencing, death, and burial of Jesus Christ are contained in this narrative. As the final hours of Jesus' life are remembered, the lights and candles will slowly be extinguished. Toward the end of the service, you will hear a loud bang. This noise, called the "strepitus," is meant to signify the earthquake that accompanied Christ's death (Matt 27:46-53) as well as the sealing of the tomb (Matt 27:57-60).*

*We will end the service in darkness.  
During the reading, the following music will be sung as announced.*

Insert – O How He Loves You and Me (verses 1-2, then verse 1 again)

#220 – Go to Dark Gethsemane (verses 1-3)

#215 – What Wondrous Love Is This

#221 – O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#227 – Jesus, Remember Me (sing through 5 times)

#228 – Were You There? *(At this point in the service, the sanctuary will be dark, so feel free to be a part of the moment in whatever way is most comfortable for you, be that singing the hymn if you're familiar with the words or simply experiencing God's presence in the stillness.)*

A Time of Silence

Benediction

Going Forth

*Feel free to remain in the sanctuary as long as you feel is necessary. When you leave, please do so quietly in respect for others' need to spend time in prayerful contemplation.*