

# IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS

*A Communion Service for Maundy Thursday Evening*

## The First Presbyterian Church

April 13, 2017  
Seven O'clock

**The Organ Prelude**.....“O Sacred Head”.....J. S. Bach

### SILENT MEDITATION

This evening’s service, adapted from the early *Tenebrae*, a word meaning “shadows,” originated during the early years of the church. The service depicts the events which led to the crucifixion.

Worshippers, entering silently, should meditate on the fact that it was on Maundy Thursday that the twelve disciples were with Jesus in the upper room for the last time, and that He and they stood in the shadow of the cross.

The extinguishing of the candles and the gradual dimming of the lights as the several portions of the story are read symbolize the flight of the disciples and the approaching hour of the crucifixion. The moment of total darkness recalls the hours Christ was in the tomb. The return of the one lit candle is prophetic of the day of Christ’s resurrection soon to dawn.

Think and pray on the meaning of this service for you and for the church.

**Old Testament Lesson** ..... Psalm 16 ..... (printed on back; to be read responsively)

**Invocation and the Lord’s Prayer** .....Dr. David Hatten Jussely

**Scripture Reading** .....Matthew 26:26-29..... Pew Bible page 832

**Maundy Thursday Meditation**.....Rev. Ben Griffith  
“The Supper of the Lamb”

**Candle Lighting**..... Dews Jussely and Sterling Dews

**Organ Interlude for Candle Lighting**

### COMMUNION SERVICE

# Shadows of Holy Week

- |      |                         |  |                           |
|------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| I.   | <b>Reading</b>          | <b>“The Shadow of Betrayal”</b>                    | <b>Matthew 26:17-25</b>   |
|      | <b>Hymn 248</b>         | “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended” (1, 2, 5) |                           |
| II.  | <b>Reading</b>          | <b>“The Shadow of Desertion”</b>                   | <b>Matthew 26:31-35</b>   |
|      | <b>Hymn 568</b>         | “In The Hour of Trial” (1, 2)                      |                           |
| III. | <b>Reading</b>          | <b>“The Unshared Vigil”</b>                        | <b>Matthew 26:36-45</b>   |
|      | <b>Hymn 249</b>         | “Tis Midnight; and on Olive’s Brow” (1, 2, 3)      |                           |
| IV.  | <b>Reading</b>          | <b>“That They May Be One”</b>                      | <b>John 17:1-6; 15-23</b> |
|      | <b>Hymn 359</b>         | “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” (1, 2)               |                           |
| V.   | <b>Reading</b>          | <b>“The Arrest at the Gate”</b>                    | <b>John 18:1-5</b>        |
|      | <b>Instrumental</b>     | “O Sacred Head”                                    |                           |
| VI.  | <b>Reading</b>          | <b>“The Shadow of the Cross”</b>                   | <b>Mark 15:16-20</b>      |
|      | <b>Piano Meditation</b> | “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”                 |                           |

### Darkness

**Prayer of Dedication** ..... Rev. Griffith

**Benediction** ..... Rev. Griffith

After the benediction has been pronounced, the congregation may wish to remain in their seats in prayer and meditation. After you have reflected upon the meaning of this service, you may leave in silence.

### Return of the Light

### READERS

- |           |                  |           |             |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Reader 1: | Wes Curry        | Reader 4: | Rob Jackson |
| Reader 2: | Keith Easterling | Reader 5: | Dan Didier  |
| Reader 3: | Shea McNease     | Reader 6: | Hugh Bolton |

RESPONSIVE READING

**Psalm 16**

Keep me safe, O God,

**For in you I take refuge.**

I said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”

**As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.**

The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.

**I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.**

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

**The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

**I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

**because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.**

You have made known to me the path of life;

**you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**



*Maundy Thursday*  
*April 13, 2017*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI