

Holy Communion & Ancient Order of Tenebrae

Thursday, April 1, 2010
8:00 PM



Covenant Presbyterian Church
230 E. Jefferson Street
Butler, Pennsylvania

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: (724) 712-1407
Church Office: (724) 287-7731
Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion
and Ancient Order of Tenebrae**

April 1, 2010

Eight O'clock PM

*"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."
~ 1 Corinthians 11:26 ~*

THE PRELUDE *Wondrous Love* David N. Johnson

THE SOLEMN PROCESSIONAL *with muffled drum*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You are holy, O God, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

People: **In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Leader: Unto you they cried, and were saved;

People: **Unto you they turned, and were not put to shame.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

THE CALL TO PRAYER

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, You sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. Judge us
with love, and lift the burden of our sins.**

**We confess that we have failed to fulfill your will for us. We
have ignored our neighbors, neglected justice, and turned
away from truth.**

**You have bound yourself to us, but we have been reluctant to
bind ourselves to you. We deceive ourselves, saying we have
no sin; we have been unwilling to forsake false gods and to
serve you and you alone.**

**O God, have mercy upon us, weak and willful though we are.
Lead us to your Table, and unite us to Christ, who is the Bread
of life and the Vine from which we grow in grace. In His name
we pray.**

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

Pastor: As Jesus washed the disciples' feet, we are washed anew
with the waters of our baptism. As we have died with Christ
in a death like his, we shall arise to new life in a resurrection
like his. We have heard the good news of the gospel, my
friends; now let us declare:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen and amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 *(Pew Bible p. 541)*
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 *(Pew Bible p. 163)*
John 13: 1-5, 31b-35 *(Pew Bible p. 102)*

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* Dale Wood

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear Christ, your sacrifice purchased our salvation. Your death has brought us life. We can never repay you for what you have done; we can only offer ourselves in humble submission to your will.

Take these gifts as tokens of our commitment and as declaration of our faith and devotion. May we become worthy of the love you poured out for the world. Amen.

*THE COMMUNION HYMN 85

What Wondrous Love Is This WONDROUS LOVE

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

People: **We give thanks unto the Lord our God.**

Pastor: Together, let us ask God's blessing upon this meal...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

THE COMMUNION (seated)

Please hold the elements until all have been served.

THE UNISON PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Almighty and most gracious Father, we give you thanks for this meal, shared in the spirit with our Lord in commemoration of His Last Supper here on earth.

Grant that our ears may be closed to the voices of clamor and distraction which surround us daily;

That our eyes, which have seen your great acts, may also behold your grace and forgiveness;

That our tongues, which sing of your love, may announce hope to the lost;

That the feet which have walked in your courts may walk in the region of light;

And that the souls of all who have now received this sacrament may be restored to newness of life. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENCE and THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

A SERVICE OF DARKNESS

The First Reading: Luke 23: 13–25, 33–34

The Choral Response: *“O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile”*

Silent Meditation

The Second Reading: Luke 23: 39–43

The Choral Response: *“Hear Us, Holy Jesus”*

Silent Meditation

The Third Reading: John 19: 25b–27a

The Choral Response: *“At the Cross, Her Station Keeping”*

Silent Meditation

The Fourth Reading: Matthew 27: 45–46

The Choral Response: *“Bound Upon the Accursed Tree”*

Silent Meditation

The Fifth Reading: John 19: 28–29

The Choral Response: *“Jesus, In Thy Thirst and Pain”*

Silent Meditation

The Sixth Reading: John 19: 30

The Choral Response: *“O Perfect Life of Love”*

Silent Meditation

The Seventh Reading: Luke 23: 46

The Choral Response: *“Behold the Lamb of God”*

Silent Meditation

☒ THE FALLING OF DEEP DARKNESS

☒ THE NAILING

☒ A PERIOD OF SORROWFUL SILENCE & PRAYER

☒ THE DISMISSAL

All worshippers are requested to leave the Sanctuary in silence

THE CHORAL RESPONSES are from
A Service of Darkness by Dale Wood

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Beverly Antis and the Covenant Choir for their many hours of practice and for the powerful message of Christ’s passion proclaimed in song tonight. Thanks also to Larry Morrison for his assistance.

A REMINDER: Our Festival Worship on Easter Sunday begins with pre-service music at 10:30 and worship at 11:00 am