

*Tenebrae*  
*A Service of Darkness*

April 15, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Prelude *He Was Despised* Handel  
Baxter Jennings, Organ

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Mike Hatfield

Minister: Come, let us gather again in the shadow  
of the Cross of Christ.

**Congregation: We gather to remember the powerful evidence  
of Love's ultimate sacrifice.**

Minister: Who would have guessed that the height and depth,  
the length and width of God's love might look like this:  
a forsaken savior on a cross?

**Congregation: Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost  
amid the world's distractions and responsibilities.  
Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.**

Minister: Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ  
and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.  
Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why  
this Friday is called "Good."

**Congregation: Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven,  
that we might have the faith, hope, and love,  
witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.**

Invocation & Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Please stand as you are able

\*Hymn 221 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* PASSION CHORALE

First Lesson Psalm 22 Rev. Ashley Harrington  
The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

Worship in Song *Ah, Holy Jesus* HERZLIEBSTER JESU  
Libby Grammer, soprano; Ashley Harrington, alto; David Cameron, tenor; William Underwood, bass  
John Fulcher, piano

Second Lesson Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 Dr. Hatfield  
The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn 212 *What Wondrous Love Is This?* WONDROUS LOVE

Litany of Confession Rev. Harrington

Minister: Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting your sacrifice and for thinking  
your grace is cheap.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Forgive us, Lord, for using the cross as a trinket,  
forgetting the agony it represents.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Forgive us, Lord, for being calloused to human cruelty,  
forgetting that every victim is a child of God.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Forgive us, Lord, for being nonchalant about injustice,  
forgetting that it still nails innocence to the cross.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Forgive us, Lord, for thinking that sacrifice is obsolete,  
forgetting that we still contend against the powers of darkness.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Receive our prayers offered in all humility, as we remember  
and honor Christ our Lord who prays for us still.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastoral Prayer

\*Hymn 218

*Were You There?*

WERE YOU THERE

The Scriptural Narrative of Betrayal and Passion

Drs. Grammer & Hatfield

The Service of Darkness

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12b

The gathering darkness is symbolic of the shadows that settled about our Lord as his enemies closed in upon him and his disciples deserted him. The candle left burning, removed from our sight, speaks to us of the One who remained faithful to the will of God in the darkest hour.

**-Please Exit in Silence-**

#### **About this Service**

**The Tenebrae**, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” dates from medieval times. In our observance, scripture, song, and silence lead us in a prolonged meditation on the events of salvation following the Last Supper through the entombment of Christ. With each progressive step of the Passion, the candles are extinguished until only the one Christ candle remains. When it, too, is removed from sight, we ponder the apparent victory of the forces of evil at the moment of Christ’s death. The Christ candle returns with its ray of promise for the third day.

#### **Participants in the Service**

Rev. Dr. Libby M. Grammer, Senior Pastor, FBC

Rev. Dr. Mike Hatfield, Pastor, CHBC

Rev. John Fulcher, Interim Minister of Music, FBC

Rev. Ashley Harrington, Interim Minister to Children, FBC

Baxter Jennings, Organist, FBC

Rev. David Cameron, Associate Minister, CHBC

William Underwood, Bass

# *First Baptist Church Chatham Heights Baptist Church*



*“From noon on, darkness came over the whole land...  
then Jesus cried with a loud voice,  
‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthaini?’ that is,  
‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’”*