

## TENEBRAE – a service of darkness and light, at home.

The word “Tenebrae” comes from the Latin meaning “darkness” or “shadows”. In this service candles are extinguished so that gradually light diminishes until it ends in darkness. This gathering darkness symbolises the approaching pain of Jesus’ death and of hopelessness in a world without God.

As we live through the darkness of the Coronavirus pandemic this Tenebrae service takes on new symbolism. We finish in silence and contemplation, but with the sure hope of light to come.

*Sit quietly and light 3 candles in preparation.*

### **PRAYER**

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

And this is the judgment

That the light has come into the world

And we loved darkness rather than light.

**Bible Reading** : Matthew 26.36 – 46

*(Extinguish a candle)*

**HYMN** STF 267 Jesus in the olive grove

(read or listen to music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCFMO6u7QFw>)

**Bible Reading** : Matthew 27. 45 – 54

*(Extinguish a candle)*

### **PRAYERS**

Lord of all

On this night when he was betrayed,

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples in humble service,

And said that they ought to wash one another’s feet.

At this difficult time in the darkness of the Coronavirus lockdown,  
Help us to serve each other in love and care.  
We give thanks for NHS staff, carers and others  
who are continuing selflessly to serve the sick and vulnerable.

On this night  
Jesus told his disciples to show love  
But suffered rejection, humiliation and violence himself.  
We pray for all those who feel forgotten, isolated or alone.  
May they know that Jesus is with them.  
We pray for courage for those at extra risk of domestic abuse,  
And for all victims of violence and war;  
May they find strength hope and light in Jesus Christ.  
Hear our prayers for peace of mind and heart  
For the ill, the anxious and those who have lost loved ones.

We thank you Lord that because of the cross  
You walk alongside us all,  
Healing, loving and inspiring our faith and trust in you.  
Amen.

**HYMN** STF 269 To see the king of heaven fall

Read/listen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVECuaZvDUg>

Lord we thank you for this most holy night;  
The night of your last supper;  
The night of your betrayal;  
The night of your trial.  
We anticipate the pain,  
The loss of tomorrow.  
We wait for the rising of the sun on Easter morning;  
We wait for your new life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Jesus and his disciples left this final supper together

To go into the chaos and fear of the Garden of Gethsemane.

We too watch,

Remember,

Pray

and give thanks.

Amen.

*(Extinguish last candle. Remain quiet for a space).*