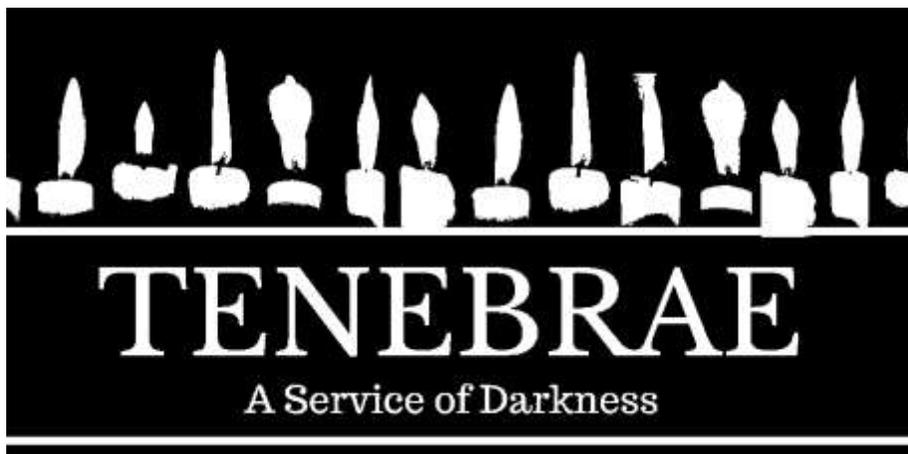


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ



Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgists: Elders Rich Zavali, Betsy Christensen, Sue Figueroa

We request that you silence all electronic devices **before** service begins.

****Please rise in body or spirit.***

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

6:00 P.M.

Tenebrae comes from Latin for “shadows” or “darkness.” It is a service of prayer and meditation.

PSALMS

Psalm 69:1-24

Elder Rich Zavali

¹ Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

² I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.

³ I am weary with my crying;
my throat is parched.

My eyes grow dim
with waiting for my God.

⁴ More in number than the hairs of my head
are those who hate me without cause;
many are those who would destroy me,
my enemies who accuse me falsely.

What I did not steal
must I now restore?

⁵ O God, you know my folly;
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.

⁶ Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me,
O Lord God of hosts;
do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of me,
O God of Israel.

⁷ It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.

⁸ I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.

⁹ It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

¹⁰ When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.

¹¹ When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.

¹² I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,
and the drunkards make songs about me.

¹³ But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord.
At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

With your faithful help ¹⁴ rescue me
from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.

¹⁵ Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,
or the Pit close its mouth over me.

¹⁶ Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

¹⁷ Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

¹⁸ Draw near to me, redeem me,
set me free because of my enemies.

¹⁹ You know the insults I receive,
and my shame and dishonor;
my foes are all known to you.

²⁰ Insults have broken my heart,
so that I am in despair.

I looked for pity, but there was none;
and for comforters, but I found none.

²¹ They gave me poison for food,
and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

²² Let their table be a trap for them,
a snare for their allies.

²³ Let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,
and make their loins tremble continually.

²⁴ Pour out your indignation upon them,
and let your burning anger overtake them.

Zeal for your house has consumed me;
The scorn of those who scorn you has fallen on me.

Psalm 70

Elder Rich Zavali

¹ Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!

² Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.

³ Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.

⁴ Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"

⁵ But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

Those who delight in my misfortune,
Let them all be put to shame.

Psalm 74

Elder Rich Zavali

¹ O God, why do you cast us off forever?
Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

² Remember your congregation, which you acquired long ago,
which you redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage.
Remember Mount Zion, where you came to dwell.

³ Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary.

- ⁴ Your foes have roared within your holy place;
they set up their emblems there.
- ⁵ At the upper entrance they hacked
the wooden trellis with axes.
- ⁶ And then, with hatchets and hammers,
they smashed all its carved work.
- ⁷ They set your sanctuary on fire;
they desecrated the dwelling place of your name,
bringing it to the ground.
- ⁸ They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them";
they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.
- ⁹ We do not see our emblems;
there is no longer any prophet,
and there is no one among us who knows how long.
- ¹⁰ How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?
Is the enemy to revile your name forever?
- ¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand;
why do you keep your hand in your bosom?
- ¹² Yet God my King is from of old,
working salvation in the earth.
- ¹³ You divided the sea by your might;
you broke the heads of the dragons in the waters.
- ¹⁴ You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
- ¹⁵ You cut openings for springs and torrents;
you dried up ever-flowing streams.
- ¹⁶ Yours is the day, yours also the night;
you established the luminaries and the sun.
- ¹⁷ You have fixed all the bounds of the earth;
you made summer and winter.
- ¹⁸ Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy scoffs,
and an impious people reviles your name.
- ¹⁹ Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals;
do not forget the life of your poor forever.
- ²⁰ Have regard for your covenant,
for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence.
- ²¹ Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame;
let the poor and needy praise your name.
- ²² Rise up, O God, plead your cause;
remember how the impious scoff at you all day long.

²³ Do not forget the clamor of your foes,
the uproar of your adversaries that goes up continually.

Arise, O God,
And plead your cause.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the unjust and cruel.

SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 1:1-5

Elder Betsy Christensen

¹ How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces
has become a vassal.

² She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers
she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her,
they have become her enemies.

³ Judah has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations,
and finds no resting place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.

⁴ The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate,
her priests groan;
her young girls grieve,
and her lot is bitter.

⁵ Her foes have become the masters,
her enemies prosper,
because the Lord has made her suffer
for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away,
captives before the foe.

My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Lamentations 1:6-9

Elder Betsy Christensen

⁶ From daughter Zion has departed
all her majesty.
Her princes have become like stags
that find no pasture;
they fled without strength
before the pursuer.

⁷ Jerusalem remembers,
in the days of her affliction and wandering,
all the precious things
that were hers in days of old.
When her people fell into the hand of the foe,
and there was no one to help her,
the foe looked on mocking
over her downfall.

⁸ Jerusalem sinned grievously,
so she has become a mockery;
all who honored her despise her,
for they have seen her nakedness;
she herself groans,
and turns her face away.

⁹ Her uncleanness was in her skirts;
she took no thought of her future;
her downfall was appalling,
with none to comfort her.
“O Lord, look at my affliction,
for the enemy has triumphed!”

My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me. Now you will see
the crowd surrounding me.

You will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.

Lamentations 1:10-14

Elder Betsy Christensen

¹⁰ Enemies have stretched out their hands
over all her precious things;
she has even seen the nations
invade her sanctuary,

those whom you forbade
to enter your congregation.

¹¹ All her people groan
as they search for bread;
they trade their treasures for food
to revive their strength.
Look, O Lord, and see
how worthless I have become.

¹² Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see
if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
which was brought upon me,
which the Lord inflicted
on the day of his fierce anger.

¹³ From on high he sent fire;
it went deep into my bones;
he spread a net for my feet;
he turned me back;
he has left me stunned,
faint all day long.

¹⁴ My transgressions were bound into a yoke;
by his hand they were fastened together;
they weigh on my neck,
sapping my strength;
the Lord handed me over
to those whom I cannot withstand.

Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He bore our sins and grieved for us, he was wounded for our transgressions,

And by his scourging we are healed.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,

And by his scourging we are healed.

PSALMS

Psalm 63:1-8

Elder Sue Figueroa

¹ O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶ when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

God did not spare God's own Son,
but delivered him up for us all.

Psalm 90:1-12

Elder Sue Figueroa

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a]
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn us^[b] back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end^[c] like a sigh.

¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span^[d] is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

- ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
- ¹² So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Like a lamb led to slaughter,
He did not open his mouth.

Psalm 143

Elder Sue Figueroa

- ¹ Hear my prayer, O Lord;
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.
- ² Do not enter into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
- ³ For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- ⁴ Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.
- ⁵ I remember the days of old,
I think about all your deeds,
I meditate on the works of your hands.
- ⁶ I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
- ⁷ Answer me quickly, O Lord;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
- ⁸ Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.
- ⁹ Save me, O Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge.
- ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
Let your good spirit lead me
on a level path.
- ¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life.
In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.
- ¹² In your steadfast love cut off my enemies,

and destroy all my adversaries,
for I am your servant.

They shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child;
For the Lord, who is without sin, is slain.

HYMN #218

Ah, Holy Jesus

218

Ah, Holy Jesus

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,

that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord
the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a -
thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's o - bla - tion, thy death of
I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy

rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

From the gates of hell, O Lord,
Deliver my soul.

PSALMS

Psalm 150

Rev. Chris Houtz

- ¹ Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty firmament!
- ² Praise him for his mighty deeds;
 praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
- ³ Praise him with trumpet sound;
 praise him with lute and harp!
- ⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;
 praise him with strings and pipe!
- ⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals;
 praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- ⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

O death, I will be your death;
O grave, I will be your destruction.

My flesh will rest in hope;
You will not let your Holy One see corruption.

HYMN #109

Blest Be the God of Israel

109

Blest Be the God of Israel

Song of Zechariah



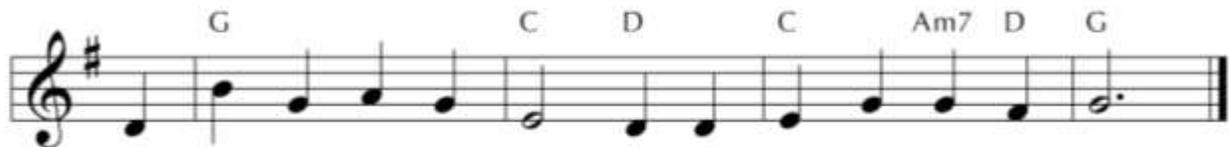
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation,
Weeping for the Lord.

For us Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

PSALMS

Psalm 51

Rev. Chris Houtz

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross.

(Please leave the sanctuary in silence)

Our Holy Week Schedule

1. Maundy Thursday— Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM.
2. Good Friday— Friday, April 2 at 3:00 PM.
3. Easter Sunday— Sunday, April 4 at 10:30 AM.