



# Tenebrae

**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

**6:30PM SERVICE OF SHADOWS**

*Officiant:* The Very Rev'd Frank Nelson

*Reader:* Christine Nelson

*Director of Music:* Anthony Hunt

*Choir:* St Peter's Cathedral Consort

*Organist:* Mark Joyner



St Peter's Cathedral strives to be a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, mission-oriented, faith community.  
The Cathedral resides on the lands of the Kaurna people  
whom we acknowledge as the original custodians of the Adelaide Region.

This service, which dates back to the very early days of the Church, is sometimes called **Tenebrae**. We kneel (or sit) as we listen to a description of the “shadows” which descended on our Lord during his last hours of life on earth.

After each reading and prayer the Choir takes up the most ancient of hymns, **Kyrie Eleison - ‘Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy’**, sung in Greek, the original language of the Church. Candles are extinguished and lights are turned off gradually as the shadows fall. We pray and watch in silence.

After the concluding prayer, the bell will be tolled 33 times, one for each year of Our Lord's life. A single candle will be carried down the central aisle and out of the main doors, which then slam shut. Then like the disciples of old, we leave in silence and sadness, but know that this is not the end of the story.

*The Prayers following each Shadow were written (2014)  
for use in St Peter's Cathedral by Christine M Nelson.*

*Please stand as the Clergy enter the Cathedral in silence  
St Peter's Cathedral Consort will sing from the Gallery*

*The Collect for Holy Week*

Almighty and everlasting God, of your tender love towards us you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility: mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please remain standing to sing the Hymn*

1. **My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
O who am I,  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take  
frail flesh, and die?**
2. **He came from his blest throne,  
salvation to bestow,  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O, my Friend,  
my Friend indeed,  
who at my need  
his life did spend!**
3. **Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then 'Crucify!'  
is all their breath,  
and for his death  
they thirst and cry.**
4. **Here might I stay and sing:  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine!  
This is my Friend,  
in whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
could gladly spend.**

Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN, J. Ireland (1879-1962)  
Words: S. Crossman (c. 1624-1683)

*Please be seated*

## THE FIRST SHADOW: BETRAYAL

*First reading: Matthew 26:20-25*

When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

It's such a small thing, betrayal.  
A sharp word, a lie, a broken promise... a kiss.  
Lord, have mercy.

Me? A betrayer... no, not me!  
Yet distractions multiply.  
My vision blurs, perspective is confused;  
things don't look as they did before.  
Other requirements, other calls,  
my desires, my safety, my comfort...  
the betrayer and the betrayed.  
Christ, have mercy.

The shadows assemble, and gather in the dark corners,  
biding their time.  
Waiting.  
Lord, have mercy.

*The Choir sings:*

Matyas Seiber (1905-1960) – *Kyrie from Missa Brevis*

## THE SECOND SHADOW: INNER AGONY

*Second reading: Luke 22:40-44*

When Jesus reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Not me, Lord!  
Not this way!  
Anything but this!  
The shadows draw closer and light shudders.  
Lord, have mercy.

How often have I slept peacefully while my neighbour suffers?  
How often have I turned my face away?  
Cries of despair and helplessness  
tremble in the darkness.  
Christ, have mercy.

Does anyone hear? Does anyone care?  
The shadows are silent.  
Lord, have mercy.

*The Choir sings:*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983) – *Kyrie from Missa Ædis Christi*

## THE THIRD SHADOW: LONELINESS

*Third reading: Matthew 26:40-45*

Then Jesus came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Where are you?  
Do you know what is happening? Do you care?  
Hollow emptiness amplifies the silence.  
Lord, have mercy.

The flesh is certainly weak, but God,  
I am so afraid that even my spirit is not particularly willing.  
Christ, have mercy.

Alone you suffered  
so that we might never be alone.  
And still, I shift to a more comfortable position,  
close my heavy eyelids.  
My prayers are feeble and few.  
And the shadows draw even closer.  
Lord, have mercy.

*The Choir sings:*

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901) – *Kyrie from Missa Brevis in F Op. 117*

## THE FOURTH SHADOW: DESERTION

*Fourth reading: Matthew 26:47-50; 55-56*

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

I run away.  
Of course I do!  
Danger? Arrest? Torture?  
These have nothing to do with me.  
Why should I stick around if I can get away safely?  
Lord, have mercy.

The false light of human power sears him  
and he stands in a spotlight, a pool of accusation.  
Isolated. Alone.  
Christ, have mercy.

It's someone else's conflict.  
What can I do anyway?  
I have responsibilities.  
I'm afraid of the dark, and Oh God,  
there is so much darkness.  
Lord, have mercy.

*The Choir sings:*

Gabriel Jackson (b.1962) – *Kyrie from Edinburgh Mass*

*Please stand to sing the Hymn*

1. **There is a green hill far away,  
without a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.**
2. **We may not know, we cannot tell,  
what pains he had to bear,  
but we believe it was for us  
he hung and suffered there.**
3. **He died that we might be forgiven,  
he died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heaven,  
saved by his precious blood.**
4. **There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
he only could unlock the gate  
of heaven, and let us in.**
5. **O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
and we must love him too,  
and trust in his redeeming blood,  
and try his works to do.**

Tune: HORSLEY, W. Horsley (1774-1858)  
Words: C. Alexander (1818-1895)

*Please be seated*

## THE FIFTH SHADOW: ACCUSATION

*Fifth reading: Matthew 26:59-67*

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days."' 'The high priest stood up and said, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus said to him, 'You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' They answered, 'He deserves death.' Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him.

'Remember when... 'Did you hear?'

'I heard that he said...'

But not me.

Don't look at me. I'm innocent.

Point the blame in another direction.

Lord, have mercy.

'How terrible!'

'To think that this was happening under our noses!'

'If I'd known, it wouldn't have gone this far.'

So easy: I accuse.

Let someone else prove it. All I have to do is point.

Christ, have mercy.

In the shadows the accused searches for an advocate.

And there he is,

standing in chains,

with a crown on his head.

Lord, have mercy.

*The Choir sings:*

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757) - *Kyrie from Missa Brevis "La Stella"*

## THE SIXTH SHADOW: MOCKERY

*Sixth reading: Mark 15:12-20*

Pilate spoke to the crowd again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

I'm just one of the crowd.  
Jeering, mocking, laughing at the bewildered one  
who turns to face us,  
looking for a face that shows sympathy,  
but meeting eyes glazed with excitement  
and wide, laughing mouths.  
Lord, have mercy.

After all, it didn't hurt;  
it was just a bit of fun.  
A laugh. Don't take it so seriously!  
Christ, have mercy.

I was just one in the crowd. What could I do?  
I was hiding in the shadows.  
Lord, have mercy.

*The Choir sings:*

John Taverner (1490-1545) – *Kyrie "Le Roy"*

## THE SEVENTH SHADOW: DEATH

*Seventh reading: Luke 23:33-46*

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

God, it's dark.

Where did the darkness come from?

How did it come to this?

It is so, so dark.

Are you there?

My enemy? My friend? *My God?*

*Are you there?*

Lord, have mercy.

Colour and form dissolve into swirling grey oblivion.

All of life is wrapped in this shroud of shadows.

Christ, have mercy.

It hurts.

*Where are you?*

Were you there?

Lord, have mercy.

*The Choir sings:*

Plainsong – *Kyrie salve*

*The Bell tolls, the Candle is carried out  
and the door is slammed shut.*

*Please leave the Cathedral in silence.*

## Holy Week & Easter Services 2021

### Maundy Thursday 1 April

7:30am Eucharist

6:30pm Choral Eucharist

*Preacher: The Archbishop*

### Good Friday 2 April

10:00am Good Friday Liturgy

- **Bookings essential at**

[www.trybooking.com/BPLYO](http://www.trybooking.com/BPLYO)

*Preacher: The Archbishop*

3:00pm Meditation Concert

- **Bookings essential at**

[www.trybooking.com/BPJMS](http://www.trybooking.com/BPJMS)

*The St Peter's Cathedral Choir sings The Fauré Requiem, with chamber orchestra, featuring soloists Jessica Dean (Soprano) and Pelham Andrews (Bass).*

*Free entry with retiring collection taken for the Anglican Board of Mission.*

### Easter Day 4 April

6:00am Vigil & Choral Eucharist

*Preacher: The Archbishop*

8:00am Eucharist (BCP)

*Preacher: Canon Jenny*

10:00am Festal Choral Eucharist with children's program

- **Bookings essential at**

[www.trybooking.com/BPLYU](http://www.trybooking.com/BPLYU)

*Preacher: Canon Jenny*

6:00pm Festal Choral Evensong

- **Bookings essential at**

[www.trybooking.com/BPLYX](http://www.trybooking.com/BPLYX)

*Preacher: Dean Frank*

*The Dean's final service before departing for New Zealand.*

*All welcome* 