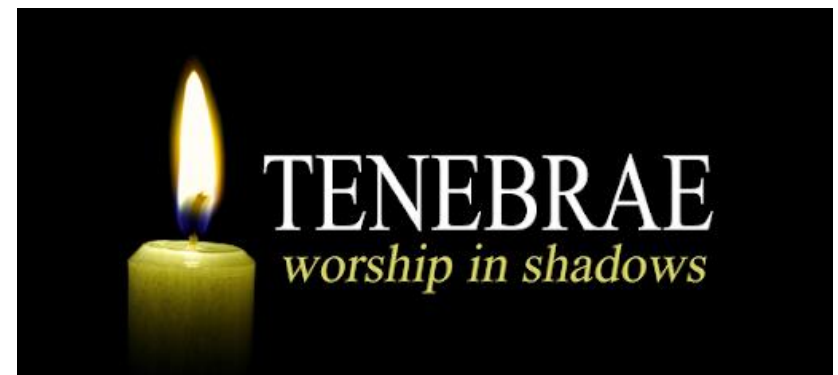


Tenebrae at Home

Many Christian churches hold Tenebrae services on Good Friday. Tenebrae is the Latin word for “darkness,” and the service is marked by gradually lowering the lights and extinguishing candles. It reflects the darkness that fell over the whole earth as Jesus was crucified.

The darkness of Tenebrae comes in seven steps, often tied to the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross. Lights are dimmed and candles extinguished after each word until there is complete darkness in the room.

As we worship from home this Good Friday, we encourage you to create your own Tenebrae experience at home. As the service begins, make sure that seven lights—ceiling lights, lamps or candles—are lit in your home. If you have candles available, be sure to use one as the seventh light. As you watch the service, turn off or extinguish one light after each word from the cross, as the candles in the sanctuary are extinguished. After the final word, blow out the seventh candle and remain in darkness at least until the end of the service. Contemplate the horror of Jesus’ crucifixion and the wonder of the Gospel promise that he died *for you*, as you wait through the long hours of Holy Saturday and await the dawn of Easter Sunday.



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