



GOOD FRIDAY TAIZÉ-TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, March 29, 2024
7:30 to 8:30pm

This service of worship is taken from two Christian prayer forms: the early Christian service of Tenebrae, the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows," and Taizé Prayer of simple harmonized chant. The service incorporates silence and Sacred Scripture to enhance the expression of an invisible communion, not only with the crucified Jesus, but with the suffering amid and all around us.

One of the most conspicuous features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only the Christ candle remains.

Toward the end of the service, the Christ candle is hidden, typifying the absence of Christ, followed by a dramatic experience of Earth's quaking, symbolic of the temple veil torn apart exposing the Divine power that triumphs over death. The hidden candle is then restored: *"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:3)

Our Lady of Mercy Chapel
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