

This Good Friday Tenebrae devotional is for use at nightfall. Some churches (including ours) combine this with a Maundy Thursday service, but this year we're observing them on separate nights. Tenebrae is Latin for "darkness"; the service itself moves into darkness as the sun sets and candles are extinguished.

You'll need a Bible, and a candle and cross if you have them. The songs are from the Taizé community, an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in France. They have a simple, repeated chorus and a meditative sound. If you will be using a phone or computer to play the two songs, queue them up in advance to prepare.

The service ends by entering into darkness, without a benediction. If possible, finish the day's activities before beginning your devotion time, and afterwards practice silence for the evening.

## **Gather**

Go to the quiet space you have prepared and light a candle.

Listen, sing and pray the Taizé song "Stay with Me" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCr2tn4yYKY>  
This is Jesus' call to his disciples to stay with him in the Garden of Gethsemane:  
"Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch, and pray."

## **Listen**

If you have a cross, set it before you.

Read Matthew 27:1-56, the account of Jesus's crucifixion. Think of yourself as a witness to the story. Open your heart, mind, and imagination to receive it. This will be a hard moment to encounter.

## **Respond**

Read, pray, or sing Psalm 22.

Reflect on the state of the world, the church, and your own life.  
Offer these things to God in prayer, seeking God's saving power.

Listen, sing, and pray the Taizé song "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY>  
"O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and listen to me."

## **Disperse**

Extinguish your candle and sit in darkness.

Depart in silence.