



Maundy Thursday

Maundy is the English form of the Latin word meaning *commandment*. Jesus' new commandment to "love one another" is the focus of this evening. This love is demonstrated in Jesus' example of servanthood by washing the feet of his disciples, as well as the gift of Jesus himself in Holy Communion.

March 28, 2024
7:00 pm

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

7:00 pm—March 28, 2024—Maundy Thursday

PRELUDE: Let Us Break Bread Together.....Setting by Sharon Elery Rogers

OPENING HYMN: As We Gather at Your Table



1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace - de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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READING: "The Importance of Tables".....Jim Friedrich

WELCOME

INVITATION TO LIGHT CANDLES

SCRIPTURE: John 13:1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

INVITATION TO HANDWASHING

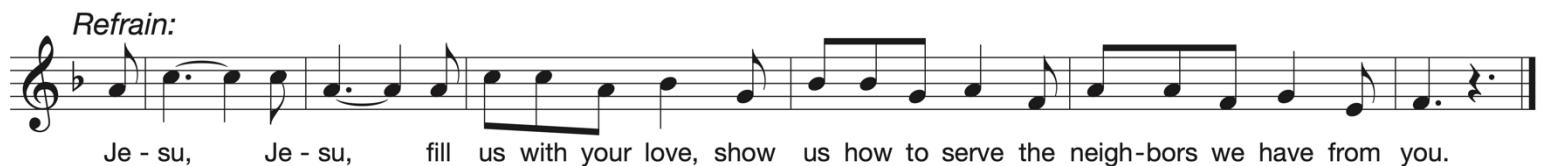
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:17-29

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, 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." While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

The soloist sings the verses; All sing the refrain.



*Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet, Jesu, you acted as servant to them. **Refrain.***

*Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are near and far away. **Refrain.***

*These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love; all these are neighbors to us and you. **Refrain.***

*Loving puts us on our knees, showing our faith by our deeds, serving the neighbors we have from you. **Refrain.***

*Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain.***

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SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:26-31

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'" But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though all fall away, I will not." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

ENTERING INTO GOOD FRIDAY

With the image of Christ kneeling low to wash feet still fresh in our minds,

We prepare to envision Christ bent down, crushed beneath the weight of the cross he is forced to carry.

With the taste of this last supper still in our mouths,

We prepare to face his body broken and his blood poured out at the hands of those who crucified him.

With Christ's commandment to love one another still ringing in our ears,

We prepare to witness the ultimate act of Christ's love for us and for all people.

Like the disciples, we prepare to leave this table with feelings of confusion, discomfort, and worry as we wait for the unresolved story to continue.

May God be with us as we watch and wait...

CLOSING HYMN: Christ at Table There with Friends

The soloist sings stanza 1; All sing stanzas 2-5.



1. Christ at ta - ble there with friends, shar - ing bread and wine, and then
2. Christ at ta - ble there with friends, shar - ing bread and wine, and then
3. In the gar - den Je - sus bows. Harsh the cry that ris - es now:
4. "Yet, your will, not mine, be done. For this pur - pose I am come.
5. At our ta - ble Je - sus stands, Word of God with nail - scarred hands.



Speak - ing words of mys - ter - y: "Thus re - mem - ber me, thus re - mem - ber me."
Speak - ing words of mys - ter - y: "Thus re - mem - ber me, thus re - mem - ber me."
"Fa - ther, some way let it be! Take this cup from me, take this cup from me!"
Thus to make all peo - ple new Take this cup from you, take this cup from you."
"Come, re - ceive the mys - ter - y. Take this cup from me, take this cup from me."

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CLOSING WORDS & BENEDICTION

TAIZÉ CHANT: Jesus Remember Me

You are invited to sing the chant as you depart. Our service continues tomorrow evening on Good Friday.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



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You are invited to continue your Holy Week Journey by attending the services below.

Good Friday, March 29: 7pm-Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31: 7am-White's Road Park, 10:15am-Sanctuary

Offering

Tonight's order of worship does not contain a formal offering collection.

You are invited to place your offering in a plate at the doors as you depart or by scanning the QR code below.



Worship Leaders

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

To learn more about St. John's, visit our website: www.st-johns-ucc.org.