

April 1, 2021

# Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m.

*With nightfall our Lenten observances come to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Ah, Holy Jesus* Gerald Near

\* GREETING

Return to the Lord, God of all mercies,  
for a feast of love has been prepared for his own.

**I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**His praise shall be continually in my mouth.**

O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Happy are those who take refuge in God.

O magnify the Lord with me,

**And let us exalt God's name together.**

\* THE HYMN NO. 292

*Wondrous Love*

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme I will sing.

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Friends in Christ,  
in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most Merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

\* KYRIE ELEISON No. 482

*Kriewald Kyrie*

*Lord Have Mercy*

Repeated phrases are sung first by the leader and then by all.

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

This is the word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE No. 549

*St. Peter*

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Where charity and love prevail,

there Christ is ever found;

brought here together by Christ's love,

by love are we thus bound.

SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Fred Mallory

\* THE GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands,

and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

<sup>31b</sup>Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

THE HOMILY

Rev. Kyle Randle

THE FOOTWASHING

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service.

HYMN No. 432

*Jesu, Jesu*

*Chereponi*

**Refrain:**

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. **Refrain**

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,  
this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain**

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

\* THE PEACE

Upon washing the disciples' feet, Jesus said to them, "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you." Reconciled by his love, let us offer prayers for peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

From the earth you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine.

You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity,  
and made covenant to be our sovereign God.

You fed us manna in the wilderness,  
and gave us grapes as evidence of the promised land.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When we turned aside from your way and abused your gifts,  
you gave us in him your crowning gift.

Emptying himself that our joy might be full,  
he fed the hungry, healed the sick,  
ate with scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet,  
and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and  
forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

MUSIC AT COMMUNION    *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*    Fannie Crosby  
Sam Hickman, *soprano sax*

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*All are invited to the Lord's Table. Please follow the direction of the pastor.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR    Psalm 22

\* DEPART IN SILENCE

~ The Service Will Continue Tomorrow beginning at 9 o'clock in the morning ~

# First United Methodist Church

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Maundy Thursday

April 1, 2021

6:30 p.m.

*Gethsemane*

*On a hill backlit by twilight,  
the disciples gather like crows  
for the night.*

*This is their down time, time to browse  
among the olive branches, Christ with them,  
their apostolic flight slowed at last  
to a head-nodding drowse,*

*to a flutter of tattered cloak,  
the unraveling hem  
dragging in the dirt like a hurt wing.  
They flock momentarily around him,*

*then settle down, safe in the soft swing  
of wind that rises and then falls back  
with deepest evening*

*Into distance, and sleep, while Christ's black  
feathers burn in his father's fist,  
plucked by God before by Judas kissed.*

*Kelly Cherry, God's Loud Hand: Poems*