



MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

MARCH 28, 2024

7:00 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SLATINGTON, PA

ORDER OF WORSHIP
APRIL 6, 2023 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

NOTE: People's responses in **bold**; * rise in body or in spirit

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME

Tonight, we commemorate the last supper Jesus had with his disciples and are reminded of God's mandate from where we get our word Maundy. God's command refers to showing acts of love as Jesus did by washing his disciples' feet. May we follow in his footsteps by following his command to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice. As it is written in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION ~ *Thine Is the Glory*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

Our service is in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **Amen.**

*** HYMN ~ *'Tis Midnight, and on Olives Brow***

#194

*** LENTEN CONFESSIONAL CREED**

I confess my need of God for all that I am and all that I have.

I confess my need of Jesus Christ for healing in relationships and guidance in my life that I might be a worthy steward of all that has been entrusted to me.

I confess my need of the Holy Spirit to kindle the Divine spark in my heart that draws me closer to the Holy so I may respond in love to all.

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

What shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me? **I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people.** With humble and grateful hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

OFFERTORY ~ *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

* DOXOLOGY

#46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, You pour out blessings upon us and cover us with grace. Accept these offerings, that they may bring blessing to those who need them, and give witness to Your overwhelming love; in Jesus' name. Amen!

INVITATION TO HEAR THE STORY

Let us hear and reflect and experience the events of Holy Week and the approach of Christ's Passion.

THE ANOINTING ~ Mark 14:1-9 ~ Pam Puskas

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

They were looking for their own answers. They thought they knew how the world worked. While they worried, Jesus sat at the table in the house of Simon the leper. A woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. She did not reply. She continued with her task. She did what she could; she anointed his body beforehand for its burial. Jesus spoke, where she did not. "Truly I tell you," he said. "Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Silence

THE LAST SUPPER ~ Mark 14:10-25 ~ Patrick Conway

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

They didn't understand his way. They didn't understand all that he taught but when it came time to share in the Passover feast, they turned to Jesus. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, those looking for answers, those who came looking for peace, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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."

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

*** COMMUNION HYMN ~ *Here, Savior, We Would Come***

#363

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Come. Come and find your place at this table. Come without answers. Come without knowing peace. Come without preparation. Come. Come to find a place here.

This is the table Christ prepares for us.

This is the feast God imagines – **where peace can be found in a simple meal.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks for the peace of God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

In the streets, **In our homes,**

Here beside this table, **we give You thanks, O Holy One.**

We give You thanks for giving us a story.

Even when we do not understand its meaning,

Even when we doubt it happened this way,

Even when we want to rush ahead to the end,

We know that You have given us this story.

We remember that our story began when You moved over the waters of creation.

You gave Your people a story.

You gave Your people a rainbow.

You gave Your people a song.

Gather here with us now, O Holy One,

Speak to us through this bread and this cup.

Remind us of all the stories we've ever heard about You so that we might find Your peace within ourselves and as we sing Your everlasting praise.

* SERAPHIC HYMN (sung in unison, #522)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory;

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord;

Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Merciful God, ... and we say boldly what we believe:

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

Come, Holy Spirit, ... for whom Christ died. **Amen.**

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

Through the broken bread, **we participate in the body of Christ.**

Through the cup of blessing, **we participate in the new life Christ gives.**

HYMN ~ *Agnus Dei* ~ (sung in unison, #525)

O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

O Holy One, there are no words to describe the mystery of this bread and cup. There are no sighs too deep to reveal what we feel in sharing in this feast. Thank You for gathering us together to remember that You are always present among us. We lift our hearts in prayer, toward Your spirit and pray, Our Father ...

HYMN ~ *In the Garden*

#227

THE STORY CONTINUES

THE GARDEN ~ Mark 14:32-40 ~ Sheri Fallon

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. They had no answers.

Silence

THE BETRAYAL ~ Mark 14:43-50 ~ Eric Hantz

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. He was confident in his own answer. He thought he knew how this must end. So, he had told the chief priests, the scribes and the elders, "Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead

him away under guard." When he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. They had come looking for answers. They had come looking for peace. This wasn't the way. They didn't understand. And so, they deserted him and fled.

Silence

THE ARREST ~ Mark 14:53-65 ~ Mary Storm

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. They did not have one answer. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

The chief priests, the elders and the scribes knew their answer. They thought they knew the ways of God. They thought they knew all that God could do. There was nothing that could convince them otherwise. They spit on him and blindfolded him. They beat him for the words he said.

Silence

THE DENIAL ~ Mark 14:66-72 ~ Dennis Silfies

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." He answered, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not

know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Silence

* **HYMN ~ *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***

#195

THE STRIPING OF THE ALTAR

I. The Table Cleared

II. The WORD Closed

III. The Light Extinguished

IV. The Life Removed

V. The Starkness Revealed

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Please depart in silence.