

Maundy Thursday Service
United Presbyterian Church
March 28, 2024



Prelude *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here*

Benjamin Watkins, piano

Call to Worship

Deacon Michelle Heitink, liturgist

Liturgist: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

People: Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

Liturgist: Beloved people of God: This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever. This is the day when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another. This is the day when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

Prayer of the Day (in unison with Liturgist)

O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed his disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal. Wash us from the stain of sin so that in hours of danger we may not fail but follow your Son through every trial and praise him always as Lord and Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* #343

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (in unison with Liturgist)

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Hear the good news: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Liturgist: May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen.

Prayer for Illumination (Liturgist)

Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit, you have given us a new commandment: to love and serve one another in Jesus' name. Let the good news of your liberating love be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: *1 Corinthians 11: 23– 26* Liturgist
Gospel Reading: *John 13: 1– 17, 31b– 35* Pastor

Sermon *Love One Another* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

*Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This* #85

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion (in unison with Pastor)

God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared in the body and blood of our Savior. As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

As the closing hymn is sung, the communion elements are carried out, the candles, extinguished, and the banners and paraments removed. The communion table and cross are draped in black.

*Closing Hymn: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* #80

All depart in silence. The worship service continues on Good Friday.

