

## Welcome to Our Maundy Thursday Worship

*The term “Maundy” refers to the new commandment given by our Christ as he humbly washes the feet of his disciples in John 13. As Jesus gathered with his followers shortly before his betrayal and arrest, he told them, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples ... if you have love for one another.”*

*Our Maundy Thursday service is an opportunity for us to gather in faithful unity, committed to living as our Savior taught us ... in humble servitude to God and one another. Tonight, we remember how our Lord and Savior washed the feet of his disciples and shared one bread and cup with them in preparation for his impending crucifixion and death.*

*\*Those who are able, please stand in body or spirit.*

*(The congregation is invited to join in speaking or singing **items printed in bold.**)*

### We Gather in Fellowship

#### GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

*Welcome to this celebration of Maundy Thursday. On this night, we remember the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples in the context of the Passover, a time when the people of Israel observed God’s deliverance from slavery to freedom and from death to life.*

*As we gather together this evening, we remember the Passover through the items found on each of the tables. These items represent the elements of the traditional Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his arrest.*

#### Please help yourself to the following items:

**Matzo** – representing the unleavened bread the Jews ate when freed from Egypt

**Celery** – representing the bitter herbs of the Passover meal, mindful of the bitterness of slavery

**Nuts** – representing “haroses,” a food made of apples, nuts, cinnamon, and wine that is mixed together to look like mortar used by Hebrew slaves in their servitude

**Lettuce** – representing a gift of gratitude to God for the products of the earth

**Salt Water** – representing the tears and sweat of enslavement (used for dipping the greens)

INTROIT

*For Love of You*

J. Carter

OPENING PRAYER

#### 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.

**On this night, Christ showed his love for all by humbly serving the least among us.**

On this night, Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

**On this night, Christ took a towel and washed the disciples’ feet.**

On this night, Christ gave us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

**On this night, Christ gave us this holy feast as a way of remembering all he had done.**

On this night, we remember ... we eat this bread and drink this cup to proclaim once more Christ’s sacrifice of love so that we may reign with him in heaven at the last day.

\*HYMN 206 (See Insert)

*This Is the Night*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, whose covenant is never broken; we confess the many ways we fail each day to live as your faithful disciples. Though you have bound yourself to us, we resist fully binding ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and avoid opportunities to serve one another. We do not love you with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength; nor do we love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us and cleanse us from our sinful nature. Lead us again to your table of loving grace and merciful sacrifice. In bread and cup, unite us once more with our Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in loving and humble service for you and for one another ...**

*(Please continue in silent prayer)*

Together, let all God’s people say ... **amen.**

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE OF PRAISE (See Insert)

*We Are Forgiven (Sung Twice)*

### We Prepare in Faithfulness

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES’ FEET

*John 13:1-17*

*In remembrance of Christ’s new commandment to humbly serve by his example, we are invited to prepare ourselves to gather around the Lord’s Table by symbolically washing our hands.*

*Make your way to the nearest bowl, dip your hands in the water, and return to your seat.*

***We Are Welcomed at the Table and Remember Our Lord***

HYMN 466 (See Insert)

*Come and Fill Our Hearts  
(Sung Three Times)*

JESUS GATHERS WITH HIS DISCIPLES

*Matthew 26:20-25, 31-35*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Come to the table of (grace).  
Come to the table of (grace).  
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of (grace).*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*How Beautiful*

Paris / Courtney

JESUS GOES TO THE GARDEN

*Matthew 26:36-46*

..... *SILENCE* .....

SUNG PRAYER (See Insert)

*Jesus, Remember Me (Sung Three Times)*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

*The bell tolls to represent the anguish and loneliness of Jesus'  
body, mind, and spirit as he faces the reality of what lies  
before him ... abandonment, arrest, abuse, and crucifixion.*

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*Jesus has been betrayed.  
Already his disciples are beginning to desert him.*

*The evening draws to a close with Jesus alone in a cell.  
The end is near for the Lord of Life and Savior of the World.*

*Please leave tonight's service in silence ...  
reflecting on the impending sacrifice of our Christ.*

*Our worship continues tomorrow evening on Good Friday at 7:00 pm ...*