

Maundy Thursday Service

March 28, 2024

Prelude and Chimes

*Call to Worship

Leader: This is an evening to remember.

People: We remember the Passover Jesus shared with his disciples.

Leader: We remember the new covenant of broken bread and cup.

People: We remember his night praying while others slept.

Leader: We remember the arrest and trial, the betrayal and denial.

People: We remember his loneliness.

Leader: This we do in remembrance. This we remember and it changes what we do.

People: We are faithful to this story; we do not let it pass.

*Hymn #346: "Bread of the World, In Mercy Broken"

*Invocation

Spirit of Christ, be with us now. Guide us in the hour of trouble; awaken us when we sleep. Help us face the cross upon which you died for our sakes; help us to face the crosses we must carry. We seek to be your disciples, following you in fear and fainting, as you strengthen us. Lead us through life and into death, for we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in you.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Tina Alston

Meditation: "Full and Empty"

With Christ at the Last Supper

*Unison Prayer of Confession

O Christ, in your presence we discover who we are. You wash our feet, and we learn how reluctant we are to serve one another. Even as you prepare to give yourself for the sake of the world, we are still seeking promotions and possessions. Our love scarcely suffices to fulfill the requirement of good manners, and yet you invite us to eat with you at your table. Forgive us, and help us to value your presence more dearly, that we may find this meal to be a celebration of joy.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Assurance and Invitation to the Table

The feast of God is designed to satisfy not our physical appetites but our hunger and thirst for righteousness. The table has long been set and there has always been a place reserved for you. Jesus Christ beckons you, "Come." Beloved, your sins are forgiven. In witness to your new life in Christ and communion with one another, you are asked to gather round the heavenly table.

***Hymn #330:** "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Holy God, we praise you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name saying:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Elements

Tonight you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and the juice/wine. Come down the center aisle, receive the elements and return to your seats.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Passion Narrative from the Gospel of Matthew

***Hymn #219:** "Journey to Gethsemane"

Jesus Prays in the Garden	Matthew 26:36-46	Bea McCarthy
The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus	Matthew 26:47-56	Rick Ransom
*Hymn #218: "Ah, Holy Jesus"		
The Soldiers Mock Jesus	Matthew 27:27-31	Jan Derry
The Crucifixion of Jesus	Matthew 27:32-44	Louise Piper
*Hymn #224: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"		
The Death of Jesus	Matthew 27:45-56	Jim Miers
Special Music:	"Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"	Keith Johnson

The service is over. There is no benediction or postlude. Please leave at your own pace in silence to return Easter morning ready to sing songs of Alleluia.