

Greenbelt Community Church

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Maundy Thursday

APRIL 2, 2026

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Greenbelt Community Church is a community centered around the belief that we are all created in the image of God. We welcome everyone seeking God's presence, in any of the ways that you may identify... by economic class, by race, by national origin, by gender identity/expression, by age, by physical or mental ability... whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you into full participation here. We rejoice that you chose to worship with us, today, as we extend an invitation to live out the extravagant welcome of Christ. Together, we are listening for God's still speaking voice. WELCOME, People of God!

A special welcome to our first-time and returning visitors! Please let us know you were here with us, today: Contact: office@greenbeltucc.org

Prelude

Greeting

Pastor Aubra Love

Call to Worship

Jan Derry, Lay Reader

One: We are gathered in the presence of God, who asks us to choose between life and death, between blessing and curse.

Many: We are gathered like the people of Israel who were challenged to choose the way of life.

One: Like them, we often follow the ways of death.

Many: Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day to begin anew by the grace of God.

ALL: By our presence here, we are saying that we choose life. Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: NCH #498 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

*Passing the Peace

Time with Young Disciples

Pastor Aubra Love

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Inclusive-Language Psalms, The Pilgrim Press
Louise Piper, Lay Reader

*I love the LORD because God has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because God has listened to me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live.
What shall I render to God for all God's bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of God,
I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God's people.
Precious in the sight of God is the death of God's loved ones.
O God, I am your servant; yes, I am your servant, the child of your woman-servant.
You have loosed my bonds and freed me from chains.
I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of God.
I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God's people,
In the courts of the house of God in the heart of Jerusalem. Praise God!*

Unison Prayer

Alexandra Strebe, Lay Reader

O God, you spoke your word and revealed your Good News in Jesus, the Christ.
Fill all creation with that Word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all
nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living
body, your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

Scripture: John 13:1-17 New Living Translation

Trix Whitehall

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So, he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"⁷ Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, the servants are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

John 13:31-35 New Living Translation

Jim Miers, Lay Reader

As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Child of Clay to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, God will grant glory to the Son, and God will do so at once. Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

MEDITATION

Pastor Aubra Love

***Communion Hymn: NCH #227 "Christ at Table There with Friends"**

SILENT REFLECTION

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 New Living Translation

Pastor Aubra Love

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then Jesus broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and God's people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death until he returns.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a Presence and to pray for a Spirit. Come to this table, then, siblings, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and for me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

HOLY COMMUNION

Sacrament of the Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer

(in the words that are familiar to you)

"Holy God, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Realm 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Realm, the power and the glory. Forever. Amen."

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

Focus Text: *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34,35 NLT*

-----*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through the offering plates during the worship service; by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving at greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/)*

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below

Praise God, for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. AMEN.

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Jan Derry, Lay Reader

ALL: O God, by gathering in this circle of love, this evening and by being refreshed at your table we receive more gifts than we anticipate or deserve. We give thanks for Jesus, the Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us so that we may willingly serve as Christ served. AMEN.

***Commissioning and Blessing**

Pastor Aubra Love

***Vocal Solo Postlude: NCH #229 "Were You There?"**

Keith Johnson, Soloist