Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024

#### Welcome and Introduction

\*Call to Worship

(read responsively)

One: You who call upon the name of Jesus, we come this evening to recall the story of the night in which he was betrayed. Are you prepared to come to the table of the One whose life was poured out for you?

Many: By the grace of God, we are.

One: Are you able to watch with Jesus at prayer in the garden?

Many: By the grace of God, we are.

One: Will you follow him even into the night of betrayal?

Many: By the grace of God, we will.

One: Then let's praise God, even in this hour of darkness.

Many: God of all grace and steadfast love, greatly is your name to be praised in all the

earth.

#### Welcome and Invitation to Communion

One: Welcome to this service. We will remember this evening the events of Jesus' last night with the disciples. We begin by sharing the meal Jesus shared with them on that night. As we prepare to come to the table, let us come recognizing who we are.

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

In your presence, Jesus, 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 requirements 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. Amen.

#### Words of Assurance

One: Hear the good news! God washes our souls with love and grace before we even ask. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven.

Many: In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 13: 1-9

\*Hymn: "An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare" #275

Meditation

**Prayer of Consecration** 

(prayed together)

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, God, that we might be servants of others, even as Jesus was a servant to his disciples and to those in need. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup that they may be for us the life and love of Jesus; and that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by your gracious love.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Ruler of the universe, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance, when you enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. We thank you for the deep love of Jesus and for the grace we experience in receiving this bread and this cup. Through lives given over to you, make us worthy of this greater love. Amen.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 22: 39-46

Call to Prayer

One: Let us join Jesus in the garden of prayer.

Many: Let us join him in his passion and victory.

A Time of Silence

One: Let us pray.

Jesus, Suffering Servant, we would learn from you the power of trust in God. Your ways seem too hard for us. We fall asleep when we should be praying. We run away when we should be staying. Help us to see what you see and know what you know. Help us to understand the love of God, so that we can trust the will of God. We hear you say, "God, if it may be, let this cup pass from me—but if you will, I will drink it." We hear, but we don't understand, and our eyelids close in sleep. Forgive us, Jesus, and help us to watch with you. Open our eyes so that we can glimpse the reality of God's eternal realm; strengthen our wills, so that in love we may work to make it visible on earth. We are weak, but you can make us strong. Send your Spirit, and hear our prayer, which we pray in your name. Amen.

Hymn:

"Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow"

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Gospel Reading:

Luke 22:47-54a

The Veiling of the Cross

**Closing Hymn:** 

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

#272

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.

This service of worship is adapted from An Order of Worship for Holy Thursday by Ruth C. Duck from the worship resource Bread for the Journey. The Words of Assurance (adapted) are by Deborah Sokolove from The Abingdon Worship Annual-2021 edited By Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu.

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Worship Leaders:

Pastor Chris Burtnett & Pastor Russ Jacobsen

Organist:

Antonia Rupert

Friday, March 29: 7pm. Good Friday Joint Worship at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church Sunday, March 31: 10:30am.- Easter Sunday Worship with Communion

## 194 'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow





# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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