

Maundy Thursday
April 6, 2023

Welcome and Introduction

*Call to Worship

(read responsively)

One: Through Jesus, we have received a new covenant. With broken bread and shared cup, we celebrate it.

Many: This is a night of remembrance and celebration. It is also a time of fear and betrayal.

One: At table with Jesus, we receive a new commandment. We are called to love one another as he loves us.

Many: We are his disciples when we love one another. Through love, we thank God for the gift of Jesus.

One: In thanks to God, we become servants to others. By Jesus' example, we become foot washers.

Many: We have come to learn from him. We are ready to follow where he leads.

*Hymn:

“Were You There”

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Opening Prayer

(prayed together)

Holy God, we need your help to face the challenges of this night. Our intentions are good. We want to share in the heritage of our faith, to remember the saving drama of Passover and to celebrate Jesus' last meal with his disciples, but we also count the cost, and tremble. Incline your ear towards us, and hear our supplications. We gather as your servant people, knowing we are precious in your sight, yet afraid to take the risk of trusting you completely. Lead us this night into deeper commitment. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (read responsively)

Deliver us, God, from the grip of our fears. It is so costly to follow Jesus. We do not want to risk our lives. We do not want to sacrifice our advantages. There are people we find difficult to love. There are places we do not want to go. We find it hard to speak of our faith. Yet we are attracted to Jesus and want to be disciples. Forgive us. Help us to develop the self-discipline we need to follow him, that we may not grow weary or lose heart. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Jesus welcomed imperfect people to the table and broke bread with persons of questionable reputation. We are welcomed at the table, not because we are worthy but because we are valued and forgiven.

Many: God, who created us, knows our potential. God provides for us this opportunity to grow in trust, commitment, and faithfulness. Thanks be to God!

Maundy Thursday Scripture

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

read from *The Message*

Meditation

“Every Time”

Hymn:

“An Upper Room with Evening Lamps”

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The Invitation to the Table

One: Come to this table to know Jesus the Christ in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup.

All: We come not because we must but because we may. We come not because we are fulfilled, but because in our emptiness we stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. We come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. We come to this table as we are. It is spread for us 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.

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (prayed together)

By coming to your table, God, we receive more gifts than we deserve. We give you thanks for Jesus, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us so we may willingly serve as he served. Amen.

Hymn:

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

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Veiling of the Cross

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.

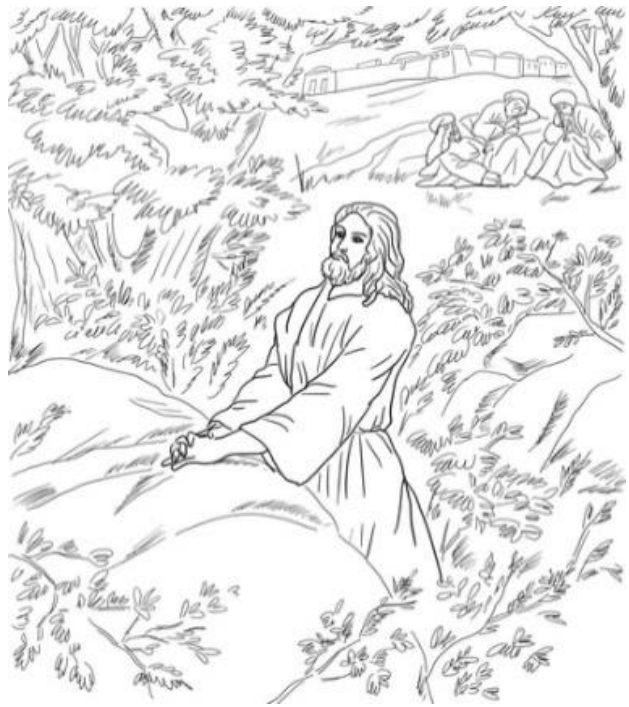
The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Words of Assurance are from *Taught By Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Invitation to the Table (adapted) and the Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving are from *the Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*.

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Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett
Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz

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Sunday, April 9: 10 am.- Easter Sunday Worship with Communion



*First Congregational
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