

MAUNDY THURSDAY

01 April, Anno Domini 2021

Half-past Five in the evening | The Sanctuary

✠ denotes the People stand, in body or in spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in **bold**.

SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Gracious God, Your Anointed One, on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life. Amen.

-UMH 283

GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti, Senior Pastor

Please see our [website](#) or [newsletter](#) for more information about upcoming ministry opportunities.

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Herzliebster Jesu" BWV 1093

Mr. Joshua Starnes, Director of Music & Organist

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

✠ CALL to WORSHIP (responsively)

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."

As we join in worship, we testify to God's love shown perfectly in Christ.

Lord, teach us to wash feet for the world You love so much.

VISIO DIVINA

The loaf and chalice symbolize the bread and wine of holy communion while the basin, ewer, and towel symbolize the washing of feet. The Greek word *agapate* is Jesus' mandate to the disciples to love one another. Thirteen poppies symbolize remembrance and represent the thirteen figures present at the Last Supper. We are spurred to contemplate our own practices of love and service to others, as well as our unity as members of one body in Christ.

1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
 2. Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
 3. Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
 4. For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion,
 5. There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,
 that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee! 'Twas I, Lord
 the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered. For our a -
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy
 rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

✦ CALL to LAMENT and REPENTANCE

The Rev. Stacey Lundy, *Associate Pastor*

Even among Jesus' closest disciples, not all were clean. On this night of all nights, we confess the ways we disappoint, deny, and even betray Jesus, our Teacher and Lord. Our confession of sin is made in the sure knowledges that Jesus is able to wash us in forgiveness and love.

Let us pray:

(A brief moment of silence follows for private confession.)

✦ CORPORATE PRAYER of CONFESSION (*in unison*)

LORD, we enter Your Presence with soiled feet,
 calloused and dirty with the messiness of our lives.
 We have walked in the mire of selfishness and pride,
 not loving others as You have loved us.
 True humility eludes us,
 and we hide our vulnerability before others.
 Forgive us, merciful God, and cleanse us of all our sin;
 then guide our feet to walk with You always.
 In Christ's Name we pray. *Amen.*

✦ ASSURANCE of GOD'S PARDON (*responsively*)

Hear the Good News:

Christ's life, death, and resurrection have won for you forgiveness and life eternal.

Through the waters of Holy Baptism you have been washed clean of all sin and guilt and now stand before God as one who is spotless and new.

Go forward refreshed and renewed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

✦ DOXOLOGY (*in unison*)

HIS MERCY IS MORE

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, His mer-cy is more.

Strong-er than darkness, new ev-'ry morn. Our sins, they are many, His mer-cy is more!

1. What love could re-mem-ber no wrongs we have done?
2. What pa-tience would wait as we con-stantly roam?
3. What rich-es of kind-ness He lav-ished on us.

Om-nis-cient, all-kno-wing, He counts not their sum.
What Fa-ther so ten-der is call-ing us home?
His blood was the pay-ment, His life was the cost.

Thrown in-to a sea with-out bot-tom or shore;
He wel-comes the weak-est, the vil-est, the poor.
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev-er af-ford.

Our sins, they are man-y, His mer-cy is more!

Repeat Refrain

✦ PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (in unison)

GRACIOUS God,
Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
that we may see the light of Your Word in the darkness of our lives.
And seeing, may we understand;
Understanding, may we do all that You ask.
In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

PSALMODY

Psalm 116.1-2,12-19



1 I love the LORD, be - cause He hears my voice;
12 What shall I ren - der, then, un - to the LORD,
14 I will ful - fill my vows un - to the LORD;
16 O LORD, be - cause I am Your ser - vant sure,
18 I will ful - fill my vows un - to the LORD



He hears the cry for mer - cy which I give.
For all His good - ness, and His love to me?
— May it be in the pres - ence of His saints.
You've loosed my chains, the son of Your hand - maid.
with - in the pres - ence of His saints a - broad;



2 Be - cause He turned His ear to ans - wer me,
13 I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion,
15 For pre - cious in the sight of God the LORD
17 I'll sac - ri - fice a thank off - ring to You,
19 With - in the courts of the house of the LORD,



I'll call up - on Him as long as I live.
And call up - on the LORD'S Name earn - est - ly.
— is even the death of all His faith - ful saints.
and call up - on the LORD'S Name un - a - fraid.
In your midst, O Jer - usa - lem. Praise the LORD!

✦ GOSPEL LESSON

[John 13.1-11](#)

MEDITATION

RITUAL of FOOTWASHING

Footwashing is a powerful symbolic response to the Word, dramatizing the servanthood of Jesus, both on the night before His death and in His continuing presence in our midst. The title “Maundy Thursday” recalls the new commandment (Latin: “mandatum novum”) in John 13.34. We wash one another’s feet as both an imitation of Jesus’s actions and as a response of obedience to His new commandment to love one another.

Loving God, as Jesus took a basin and poured the water long ago, we bring these basins of water before You. Bless this water for washing, and bless the feet of Your servants, too. Wash away the stains and strains of this life, we pray, that we may walk anew in the ways of Christ. In true humility, we bend our lives in service to You. Help us all, by Your example, to understand more deeply how we are meant to serve rather than be served, for love’s sake. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON

[John 13.12-17](#)

RECEPTION of GOD’S TITHES and OUR OFFERINGS

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PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

CONCLUDING with THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

from Matthew 6.9-13

Our Father...

STRIPPING of THE CHURCH

The ancient practice of stripping the Lord’s Table and sanctuary is a vivid and dramatic way of showing the isolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane and what followed. The People are invited to pray as Psalm 22 is chanted while the table and chancel are stripped.

✦ DEPARTURE into THE MISSION FIELD

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Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19 Metrical Setting by: Julie and Timothy Tennent, from *A Metrical Psalter: The Book of Psalms Set to Meter for Singing*; © 2017 Seedbed Publishing; Music: EVENTIDE; W. H. Monk, 1861.



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