



ORDER OF WORSHIP
March 28, 2023
7:30 p.m. Service
Maundy Thursday Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship:

Pastor: We are gathered to recall the night when Jesus was betrayed. Are you ready to come to the feet of Christ, whose Life was poured out for you?

People: By the grace of God, we are.

Pastor: Can you watch while Jesus prays in the garden?

People: By the grace of God, we can.

Pastor: Will you follow Jesus, even into the night of betrayal?

People: By the grace of God, we will.

Pastor: Then let us praise God, even in the hours of darkness.

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

Hymn – “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (UMH #298)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers: Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God in this hour and declare our need of forgiveness and cleansing.

People: **Jesus, our feet are dirty from the journey.**

We have not loved God, or one another, as you have loved us.

Where we have pledged loyalty to you with our lips, and then denied, deserted, or betrayed you, forgive us, we pray.

By your Spirit make us clean, new, and faithful in every time of trial, Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Silent Confession]

Pastor: Dear friends, Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. Yet Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us.

People: **We believe the good news, that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and strengthened to follow him faithfully in the midst of confusion and death into eternal light. Amen.**

Reading of the *Mandatum Novum* – John 13:34-35

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Meditation

Extending the Peace of Christ

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom 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,

and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn – “Just As I Am, Without One Plea?” v1,2,3 (UMH #357)

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The Lord’s Supper

Pastor: It was on a night, very similar to tonight, that our Lord gathered around a table with his friends. There they shared the stories of their lives while partaking in a meal together. Christ Jesus, well aware of what was to come, was present to his disciples as he listened and shared with them. Know our Lord is present and attentive to us this evening.

People: We are thankful and lift our hearts to God for the new beginnings we are offered.

Pastor: Lord, in the breaking of this bread, we see your broken body given for us. In the drinking of the cup we sense the mystery of your sacrifice on behalf of us.

People: We gather tonight to re-experience God’s presence with us in the holy meal of Communion.

Pastor: “On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread.”

People: His life became the bread of life for us.

Pastor: “And when he had given thanks, Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his disciples.”

People: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.

Pastor: He said, “take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.”

People: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Pastor: “Do this in remembrance of me.”

People: We remember and give thanks for the gift of his body, given for us.

Pastor: “After supper, Jesus also took the cup.”

People: Through the cup of salvation, we share in the new life Christ offers.

Pastor: “And when he had given thanks, he gave it to his disciples.”

People: “Any who believe in me will never be thirsty.”

Pastor: Jesus said, “drink from this, all of you. For this is the cup of the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

People: Jesus tells us as he told the paralytic on the mat, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Pastor: “Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

People: In remembrance of Christ’s love, and the gift of his life for us, we are eager to join with the communion of saints and partake in this Holy meal.

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be for us the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, bind us in love to the church of every time and place, such that we may bear witness to the love of Christ as his disciples and bring glory to your Holy Name.

All: Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving

Pastor: Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Hymn – “Go to Dark Gethsemane” v1,2 (UMH #290)

Go to dark Gethsemane,
ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away;
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

See him at the judgment hall,
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn of Christ to bear the cross.

The Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae is the Latin word meaning darkening. The gradual darkening of the sanctuary reminds us of the darkness and weight of sin that Jesus assumed for our benefit.

Ring of Faith – “Meditation on Victimae Paschali”

The Shadow of Temptation Luke 22:40-46

Youth Choir – “The Walk to Calvary”

The Shadow of Betrayal Luke 22:47-53

The Shadow of Desertion Mark 14:50

CHOIR – “Where You There in Gethsemane?”

The Shadow of Denial Luke 22:54-62

The Shadow of Compromise Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26

The Shadow of Crucifixion Luke 23:33-43

CHOIR – “The March to Calvary”

The Shadow of Death Luke 23:44-49

The Shadow of the Tomb Luke 23:50-56

CHOIR – “Even the Heavens Are Weeping”

Procession of Cross-bearer with Cross, the Hammering of the Nails, the Removal of the Light. Chimes are sounded 33 times, representing the 33 years of Christ's earthly life. After the chimes, the Christ Candle returns.

Closing Litany on the Light

Reader 1: You have been through the shadows,

Reader 2: And it is dark.

Reader 1: You have experienced the weight and gloom

Reader 2: And you have felt the sorrow.

Reader 1: Hold on to the faint image of true Light.

Reader 2: Have faith that it cannot be put out.

Recessional of the Light

Depart in Silence

Brian Barber, Organist
Roy Nelson, Director of Music Ministries

Rev. Brad Leight
Ruth Portzline, CLM