

## CROSSES

*Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha.  
And they crucified him, and divided his clothes  
among them, casting lots to decide what each should  
take. Mark 15:22-24*

God, we bring before you the deathly places of our lives and in our world. We pray for all who have died, all who are sick, and all who are without income, housing or food. We pray for those who are without hope and those who lives have been upended by violence. Your cross reminds us that even in these deathly places you are ever-present. You share our burdens and transform them into sites of healing. May the power of your cross pierce our hearts and carry us into new life. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take, this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.' Mark 14:22-24*

Gracious God, you feed us at your table of grace and gather us into one body for the sake of the world. Send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

Go in peace. As Christ loved you, so love one another. Amen.

# HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 1, 2021  
GRACE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

Welcome. Tonight's service consists of five prayer stations, all designed to represent the sacrificial gifts Jesus made during his final days on earth. You may start whenever you wish and move between the stations in whatever order and pace you desire.

## Opening Prayer

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. He shared a meal with his disciples, establishing a covenant with all people. In the washing of feet, he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak into our hearts, feed our spirits and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WASHING

*Jesus, knowing the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. After he washed their feet, he said 'You also ought to wash one another's feet.'* John 13:3-4, 12-14

God of dirty hands and tired feet, forgive us when we want to be too clean. Help us name life for the messy business it is. Wash every part of us that feels exhausted, dirty or ashamed. Amen.

## PRAYING PICTURES

*They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the house might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'* Mark 14:32, 35-36

God, whose wise love gave us this night of eating, washing, and praying, forgive us for leaving you, ignoring others, and being caught in our own fears. Open our heart to the ever-newness of your life, so that it may resurrect our own. Amen.



## CONFESSION

*When Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' But he denied, it saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.'*

Mark 14:66-68

*Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'* Luke 23:34



The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

