

Order of Worship
April 2, 2026
Maundy Thursday

Prelude

Call to Worship (Responsive)
One: We gather tonight to tell the old, old story.
All: a story of bitterness and betrayal, of despair, denial and death.
One: We gather tonight to tell an even older story prepared before the worlds began:
All: a story of love powerful enough, to rewrite our endings, with the promise of new life.
One: In the telling of the story, in the breaking of the bread, in the coming of the night,
All: we draw near once more to Christ.

Words of Welcome

Hymn No. 202 *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)
One: Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts,
All: and still you love us—you have loved us to the end.
One: We have denied you,
All: and we have denied our calling to serve one another.
One: We have betrayed you,
All: and we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.
One: Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.
All: Teach us to love and serve you faithfully and to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Anthem *Saw Ye My Savior*, arr. Johnson

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading *John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

Meditation Rev. Dr. Kathy Wolf Reed

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*, Hymnal p. 35

Communion of the People

As you come forward to receive communion, you are invited to remember your baptism by touching the water in the font, using it to draw a cross on your forehead, or simply offering a prayer of gratitude for God's unending love for us through Christ.

Hymn No. 535 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Prayer after Communion written by Nolan Williams, Jr.

One: You knew your hour had come. You knew your betrayer. You knew your enemies. You knew that the straw vote would not be in your favor. But you loved unto the end.

All: Thank you for loving us, even unto death.
Teach us to love like you love.
Teach us to love each other, to love even our enemies,
like you loved us.

One: On that solemn evening, you surrounded yourself with friends and enemies, persons of faith and persons of ill-will.

All: Help us to be able to always emulate you
when we are surrounded by our friends
and especially when we are surrounded by our enemies.

One: You have established a "new commandment;" help us to live it out in every moment, in every aspect of our lives, in our families, in our churches, in our communities, and throughout the world.

All: On this Holy Day, we gather to remember again
the miracle that you performed in our lives.
You have brought us into the marvelous light.
At great cost to you, you have given us new life
and life eternal. Amen.

Hymn No. 215 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

As the Maundy Thursday liturgy is part of one event that spans from Maundy Thursday to the break of dawn on Easter morning, there is no blessing in this service; rather, it ends in a way that is intentionally unresolved, indicating that there is more to come. Accordingly, the people may depart in silence at the conclusion of the hymn.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church, Auburn

New to the Presbyterian Church USA? We would love to share with you more about our Reformed tradition of theology and worship.

New to Auburn, or simply new to this congregation? We'd love to share with you more about the rich history of this church and its valuable contributions to the Auburn community.

Searching for a church home? We would love to join you in that search and help discern whether First Presbyterian may be where God is calling you to be nurtured, inspired, and empowered.

Please take a moment to fill out our online Friendship Register or you may contact either of us directly.

Revs. Nick and Kathy Reed, Co-Pastors