First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Digital Maundy Thursday Service

April 1, 2021

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude on "O Waly Waly" arr. J. Bert Carlson

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING OF PEACE

GATHERING SONG #93

Ah, Holy Jesus HERZLIEBSTER JESU

1 Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
That mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone You.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You;
I crucified You.

3 For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion,
For my salvation.

4 Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay You,
I do adore You, and will ever praise You,
Think on Your pity and Your love unswerving,
Not my deserving.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ you love and serve us with an abundance that is beyond counting. And as his disciples, Christ called us to love one another just as he has loved us. We confess that we often fall short of that call. We hold ourselves back out of fear: fear of loss, fear of rejection, fear of

vulnerability. Fill us with Christ's love anew, Lord, so that we may reach out in service with confidence and hope, loving others as Christ loves us, so that everyone may know by that love that we belong to him.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC O Lord Remember — Jane Marshall
Rebecca Ripley, Soprano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

First Reading Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 — Phil Fair

Second Reading John 13:1-17, 31b-35 — Liz Mountain

DISCERNING GOD'S WORD

DIGITAL UPPER ROOMS – Time to discuss questions in small groups (attached)

WE RESPOND

SONG AFTER REFLECTIONS — #94

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare — O WALY WALY

1 An upper room did our Lord prepare
For those He loved until the end:
And His disciples still gather there,
To celebrate their risen Friend.

2 A lasting gift Jesus gave His own;
To share His bread, His loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
He by His cross shall lift us up.

3 And after supper He washed their feet,
For service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete:
Sent out to serve, as He was sent.
4 No end there is! We depart in peace,
He loves beyond our uttermost:
In every room in our Father's house
Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DIGITAL UPPER ROOMS – Time for communion liturgy (attached)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION #516

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation O QUANTA QUALIA

1 Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
Chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication,
Ours a commitment we know never ends.

2 Here, at your table, confirm our intention,
Give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
Teach us to serve, without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your Kingdom, whatever our place.

3 When, at your table, each time of returning,
Vows are renewed and our courage restored:
May we increasingly glory in learning
All that it means to accept you as Lord.

SENDING SONG #353

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here DAS NEUGEBORNE

Verses 1-3

1 Great God, Your love has called us here
As we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
Though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
Your call to hear, Your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains
Of broken trust and chosen wrong,
Half-free, half-bound by inner chains,

By social forces swept along,
By powers and systems close confined,
Yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ You call our name
And then receive us as Your own,
Not through some merit, right or claim,
But by Your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
And find You kneeling at our feet.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Silence)

Discerning God's Word Together

Digital Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 1, 2021

Instructions:

You will have approximately 15 minutes as a group to discern God's Word to you in this time of Scriptural reflection. There are three discussion questions below, which gives your group about five minutes, on average, to discuss each question. That means only a minute or less per person, per question, assuming everyone responds to each question in your group. Please do not share with others outside this group anything besides what you yourself share in the group, as a way of respecting the stories of others.

If you finish early, you may spend time in silent reflection or in prayer for one another.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the new commandment Jesus gives his disciples? Why is it "new"? Why do you think he gives it to them as he is about to leave them?

2. What does it mean to love one another as Christ loved us when we are living in a time of such division and polarization in our society?

3. How have you experienced this congregation or the Bethlehem community loving one another as Christ has loved us during the pandemic? What impact did that make on others? On you?

Digital Upper Room Communion Liturgy
Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 1, 2021

Beginning instructions:

Make sure each person participating claims at least one numbered "part." If you have fewer than six people, make sure enough people take two parts so that the liturgy is covered. Once you have divided out the liturgy, Reader 1 should say, "let's begin our time of Communion," wait a few moments in silence, and then start:

Reader 1:

Scripture tells us that people will come from north and south, from east and west, from every corner of the earth and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Reader 2:

(*praying*) Gracious and Loving God, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all that you have done for us throughout the ages. You created us to love you and each other, and to care for this world you have made. You made covenants to teach us how to live with each other and you. You sent us prophets to remind us what it means to be faithful. And you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death and open the door to eternal life with you.

Reader 3:

(*praying*) Lord, as we unite with you and each other in Communion, we pray that your Spirit and special blessings will rest upon those who are most in need: those who are sick, in the hospital, or recovering from illness; all those who are poor, hungry, or homeless; all who have lost their jobs or lack healthcare coverage; all those whose essential work places them at risk in order to help their neighbors during this pandemic.

Reader 4:

(*praying*) Lord, we share this bread and cup now as Christ commanded us to do, and as he did first with his disciples: in a small room, with fellow disciples, during an anxious and dangerous time, trusting you to be present with us through the power of your Holy Spirit, giving us strength and comfort and hope as you do.

Reader 5:

And so let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught his disciples: **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Instructions for Sharing the Bread and Cup

Each person in turn, beginning with Reader 1, chooses someone who has not taken Communion yet and say, "(First Name), the Body of Christ, given for you; the Blood of Christ, shed for you." That person then takes Communion, and when finished, does the same for another person who has not yet taken Communion. Follow this process until everyone has both received and offered Communion with someone else.

When everyone has received, and after a few moments of silence, the service continues:

Reader 6:

(*praying*) Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for uniting us with each other and you through the power of your Spirit even when we are physically separated. Be with us as we go from this time of worship, and guide us as we try to show your love in everything we do. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

You may remain in silent reflection and prayer until you are invited from your "room" back into the larger worship service.