



THE THREE DAYS
Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6, 2023
6:00 P.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



LITURGY OF MAUNDY THURSDAY

Tonight's worship is the first part of a three-day service in which we enact the story of God's saving love in Jesus Christ. Our Maundy Thursday service itself is in three parts, inspired by the account of Jesus' final night in Luke's gospel: Share, Serve, Stay.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the night when Jesus invites us to share a meal.

We bring all of who we are to his table:

The parts of us that are faithful and the parts of us that are afraid.

This is the night when Jesus invites us to serve with humility.

We bring all of who we are to his way:

The parts of us that are loving and the parts of us that are indifferent.

This is the night when Jesus invites us to stay with him even in the darkest hour.

We bring all of who we are to his presence:

The parts of us that are at peace and the parts of us that are troubled.

HYMN 836

Abide with Me

EVENTIDE

1. **Abide with me: fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**
2. **I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**
3. **I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

SHARE

THE STORY

Luke 22:1-14

Narrator: The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called Passover, was approaching. The chief priests and the legal experts were looking for a way to kill Jesus, because they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. He went out and discussed with the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard how he could hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted and arranged payment for him. He agreed and began looking for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them—a time when the crowds would be absent. The Day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John with this task:

Jesus: “Go and prepare for us to eat the Passover meal.”

Peter: “Where do you want us to prepare it?”

Jesus: “When you go into the city, a man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters. Say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guestroom where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ ’ He will show you a large upstairs room, already furnished. Make preparations there.”

Narrator: They went and found everything just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When the time came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles joined him.

THE EVENING MEAL

HYMN 525

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**
- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees...**
- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees...**

Jesus: “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I tell you, I won’t eat it until it is fulfilled in God’s kingdom.”

Narrator: After taking a cup and giving thanks, Jesus said,

Jesus: “Take this and share it among yourselves. I tell you that from now on I won’t drink from the fruit of the vine until God’s kingdom has come.”

Narrator: After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Narrator: In the same way, he took the cup after the meal and said,

Jesus: “This cup is the new covenant by my blood, which is poured out for you.”

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared in the body and blood of our Savior. As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERVE

THE STORY

Luke 22:21-27

Jesus: “But look! My betrayer is with me; his hand is on this table. The Human One goes just as it has been determined. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays him.”

Narrator: They began to argue among themselves about which of them it could possibly be who would do this.

Narrator: An argument broke out among the disciples over which one of them should be regarded as the greatest.

Jesus: “The kings of the Gentiles rule over their subjects, and those in authority over them are called ‘friends of the people.’ But that’s not the way it will be with you. Instead, the greatest among you must become like a person of lower status and the leader like a servant. So which one is greater, the one who is seated at the table or the one who serves at the table? Isn’t it the one who is seated at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.**
- 2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
Neighbors are near us and far away.**
- 3. These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
All these are neighbors to us and you.**
- 4. Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
This is the way we should live like you.**

ACT OF HUMILITY AND COMMUNITY: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As servants of God and servants of one another, let us confess our failings.

Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts,
And still you love us--you have loved us to the end.

We have denied you,
And we have denied our calling to serve one another.

We have betrayed you,
And we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.

Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.
**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.**

A brief silence is kept.

Now the Lord Jesus Christ has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. Now the promise is fulfilled, and love's redeeming work is done: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to share signs of peace with those around you.

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 203)

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

STAY

THE STORY

Luke 22:31-46

Jesus: "Simon, Simon, look! Satan has asserted the right to sift you all like wheat. However, I have prayed for you that your faith won't fail. When you have returned, strengthen your brothers and sisters."

Peter: "Lord, I'm ready to go with you, both to prison and to death!"

Jesus: "I tell you, Peter, the rooster won't crow today before you have denied three times that you know me."

Jesus: "When I sent you out without a wallet, bag, or sandals, you didn't lack anything, did you?"

Peter: "Nothing."

Jesus: "But now, whoever has a wallet must take it, and likewise a bag. And those who don't own a sword must sell their clothes and buy one. I tell you that this scripture

must be fulfilled in relation to me: ‘And he was counted among criminals.’ Indeed, what’s written about me is nearing completion.”

Peter: “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

Jesus: “Enough of that!”

Narrator: Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived, he said to them,

Jesus: “Pray that you won’t give in to temptation.”

Narrator: He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed.

Jesus: “Father, if it’s your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not my will but your will must be done.”

Narrator: Then a heavenly angel appeared to him and strengthened him. He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly. His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. When he got up from praying, he went to the disciples. He found them asleep, overcome by grief.

Jesus: “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to pray for yourself, our congregation, community, and world as we sing together. During this time, you may light a candle to represent your prayers.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray, — watch and pray.

Narrator: While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared, and the one called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him.

Jesus: “Judas, would you betray the Human One with a kiss?”

Narrator: When those around him recognized what was about to happen, they said, “Lord, should we fight with our swords?” One of them struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear.

Jesus: “Stop! No more of this!”

Narrator: He touched the slave’s ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders who had come to get him,

Jesus: “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, as though I were a thief? Day after day I was with you in the temple, but you didn’t arrest me. But this is your time, when darkness rules.”

Narrator: After they arrested Jesus, they led him away and brought him to the high priest’s house. Peter followed from a distance. When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

Then a servant woman saw him sitting in the firelight. She stared at him and said, “This man was with him too.” But Peter denied it.

Peter: “Woman, I don’t know him!”

Narrator: A little while later, someone else saw him and said, “You are one of them too.”

Peter: “Man, I’m not!”

Narrator: An hour or so later, someone else insisted, “This man must have been with him, because he is a Galilean too.”

Peter: “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!”

Narrator: At that very moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Lord’s words:

Jesus: “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.”

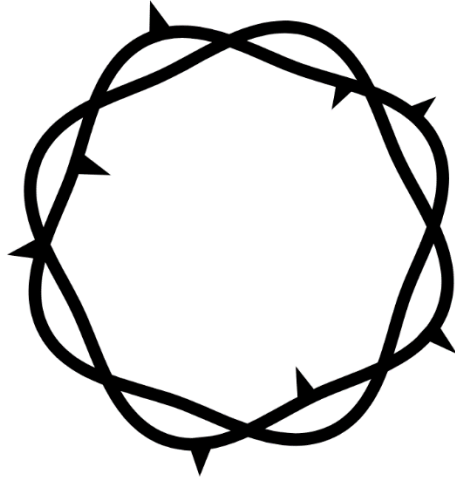
Narrator: And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

Silence is kept.

You may depart quietly when you are ready.

The service continues on Good Friday at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary.

**Rise in body or spirit*



LEADING OUR WORSHIP TONIGHT

Leader: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Storytellers:

Narrator: *Stephanie Dube* | Jesus: *Paul Puckett* | Peter: *Bill Helwig*

Pianist: *Tyler Simpson*

Thank you to the Worship Committee, particularly Ellen Sweet, Pat Hale, and Larry Hale, for their faithful work in preparing for tonight's supper and service.



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive
community of faith called to proclaim
the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people,
and to join God in the building of a
just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Tyler Simpson, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Gabriel Lovelace, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider