

THE THREE DAYS

# Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



# LOVE ONE ANOTHER

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

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*The liturgy for the Three Days proclaims one dramatic story in three acts. The events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter are best understood as one service, unfolding over the course of three days. Through this profound and transforming experience at the heart of the Christian year, we are immersed in the holy mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and the great story of God's saving love.*

## GOD HEARD MY CRY

### OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

**Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.**

Beloved people of God:

This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever.

This is the day when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

This is the day when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another.

**May we follow the path of Christ. Let us worship God.**

HYMN 215

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!**

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

REFLECTION: "He Heard My Cry"

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*Rom. 5:8; Heb. 4:16*

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, Have mercy.**

*Silence is kept for personal confession.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Thanks be to God!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 215)

WONDROUS LOVE

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And through eternity, I'll sing on.**

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME**

PRAYER BEFORE THE MEAL

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

THE EVENING MEAL

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

REFLECTION: "In Remembrance of Me"

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...**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### 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 prayer continues.*

### 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.**

## A NEW COMMANDMENT

### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### REFLECTION: "A New Commandment"

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

ANOINTING

You are loved by God and gifted for service.

*After coming forward to be anointed, you are invited to form a circle around the room.*

BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY FOR SERVICE

*based on Book of Order, F-1.0301*

We are Christ's body in the world, called to respond to his commandment of love not simply as individuals but together as the Church.

Help us, O Christ, to be a community of faith:  
that entrusts itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.

**Help us, O Christ!**

Help us, O Christ, to be a community of hope:  
rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in you, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. We live in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.

**Help us, O Christ!**

Help us, O Christ, to be a community of love:  
where sin is forgiven, reconciliation accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility  
are torn down.

**Help us, O Christ!**

Help us, O Christ to be a community of witness:  
that points beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's  
transforming grace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Help us, O Christ!**

#### SUNG RESPONSE

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

*The service continues tomorrow evening at 6:00 with the liturgy of Good Friday.*

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### **LEADING OUR WORSHIP TONIGHT**

Stephanie Dube  
Marilyn Ericksen  
Dennis Jewett  
Jeff Moles

Special thanks to the Worship Committee for their work to  
prepare tonight's service and meal.



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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