

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
Maundy Thursday Service of Communion
April 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Maundy is a word from Latin that means mandate or commandment. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Passover night where Jesus gathered around a table with his disciples and said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34).

*The congregation is invited to join in with the words **in bold**.*

Prelude My God, Have Mercy J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Andrea Een, violin; Connie Martin, bass

Welcome

Opening Hymn My Song Is Love Unknown Rhosymedre

<p>My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me, Love to the loveless shown, That they might lovely be. O who am I, that for my sake My God should take frail flesh and die, My God should take frail flesh and die?</p>	<p>Sometimes they threw down palms And sweetest praises sang. Hosannas and glad psalms Through streets and markets rang. Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath, For blood and death they thirst and cry, For blood and death they thirst and cry.</p>
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**I sing my plain belief,
One song my heart outpours;
Never was pain nor grief,
Never was love like yours.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend,
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Confession Reflection Marcia McFee

Silence for confession and reflection

Words of Assurance Marcia McFee

One: Know that God's love and grace surround you.
No. Matter. What.

You are a precious and holy vessel right now.
Christ's light is a treasure given freely.
For you, for me, for all.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Matthew 26:6-13

Reading "The Woman at Bethany Anoints Jesus," Rachel Held Evans C.J. Riehle-Merrill

Scripture Matthew 26:14-25

Reading "The Judas Chromosome," Craig Barnes Reuben Menk

Scripture Matthew 26:26-30

Reading "The Last Supper," Katrina Paxson Ani Gottfried

Celebration of Holy Communion

Music For Communion *Santo, santo, santo*

**Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora! Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres, Dios.
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.**

If you have prepared elements in your home to use for communion: bread, juice or wine, we invite you to bring them forward now. If you do not have elements to signify communion, please know that even a cup of water can become a remembrance of God's love.

Litany of Remembering Adapted from Elizabeth Cuff

One: On their own, the bread and cup are nothing.
To become a promise of love made real and a world made whole,
they need a story, a blessing, and a people who seek.

**Many: It would not have been God's table if they hadn't all been gathered around it:
the betrayer and the friend,
the power-hungry and the justice seeker,
the faithful and the fickle.**

One: When Jesus poured the cup and the bread was broken,
when everyone could eat;
the outcast and the beloved,

the arrogant and the gracious,
the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by,

**Many: It was then that the table became an example
of love made real and of a world made whole.**

One: Our company at the table will include
the betrayer and the beloved
the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by.

Many: It would not be God's table without them.

One: Come to this table,
not because you must, but because you may;
not because you are certain, but because you are hungry;
not because you are ready, but because you are thirsty.

**Many: We come because when we are gathered,
when we tell the story and give the blessing,
when we break the bread and drink the cup,
we are living into Jesus' vision of love made real
and of a world made whole.**

Telling The Story

Blessing the Elements

Adapted from Maren Tirabassi

One: Spirit of Christ, bless our tables and our lives. Through this bread, give us courage to speak in faith and act in love, not only in church, but in your precious world. Through this cup, renew our hope, restore our holy vessels. Wrap your presence around all whose bodies, spirits, and hearts need healing.

Many: Let us become your compassion and safe refuge, healed and still healing. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Please partake of the Communion elements you have in your space. If you have not prepared elements, please take a moment to rest in this shared experience.

Hymn

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 heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul.**

**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.**

Closing Litany

adapted from Roddy Hamilton

One: We trust the time is now
(with the taste of bread fresh on our lips)
Many: to go into the world and face the darkness
One: We trust the moment is right
(with the taste of the cup still in our mouths)
Many: to face the powers of the world with the love of heaven
One: We trust the place is here
(with love's mandate echoing in our ears)
Many: to endure the suffering to which love calls us
One: We trust the hour is come
(with the pain of the cross in our hearts)
Many: to conspire with Christ and move against injustice
One: We trust the Gospel is this
(with bread lying broken and a goblet left empty)
Many: love is betrayed but death shall not have the final word

*Please depart quietly as you leave Zoom worship. There is no closing blessing as the worship ends,
because the story continues through resurrection on Easter Sunday.*

**Please take part in our Good Friday podcast (available at firstucc.org)
and join us for Zoom worship on Easter Sunday April 4, at 10:30 a.m.**