

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Marys, Ohio

March 28, 2024

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday (called Holy Thursday in some traditions) takes its name from the Latin (mandatum novum) found in John, chapter 13, where Jesus offers his disciples a "new commandment" at the Last Supper, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (each person prays silently)

Loving Savior, whose care for us is deeper and wider than we can imagine, grant us now a sense of participation in the stories of Passover and the upper room. May Christ's example inspire our renewed commitment and service. Amen.

PRELUDE "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

***Greeting**

In the growing darkness we gather. Our Lenten journey has brought us here. Jesus, our Teacher and Lord, sets before us bread, and a cup. He gives us an example and a new commandment: to love one another as he has loved us. This is how everyone will know we are his disciples, when we love each other.

***HYMN #262** "Ah, Holy Jesus"

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

THE SCRIPTURE John 13:21-32

THE MESSAGE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY "Facing Our Betrayals" Rhonda A. Hainer

HYMN # 484 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (Verse 1 sung three times)

UNISON 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. Gathered on this Holy Thursday, we confess that we are capable of denying and betraying you and

one another, no less than the first disciples. Forgive us, merciful God, and cleanse us of all our sin; then guide our feet to walk with you always. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Disciples of Christ, having loved his own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end. Jesus knows us fully and offers love and forgiveness unconditionally. In gratitude for the grace given to us, and as a witness to our faith in Christ, we will love one another.

In Remembrance of Me Video

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

Those who are able may come down the center aisle to be served. If you prefer, please remain seated and the elements will be brought to you.

Hymns to be sung during Communion

HYMN # 373 Change My Heart, O God

HYMN # 689 One Bread, One Body

HYMN # 697 Eat This Bread

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Special Music "Were You There" Flute Solo Jean Smith

STRIPPING OF THE WORSHIP SPACE

The final act of this service is the stripping of the worship space. At the conclusion of the service, members will extinguish the candles, and remove candlesticks, the altar cross, the paraments and strip the cross. The unadorned space reflects Jesus' abandonment during the night in Gethsemane, and now gives a depiction of Christ's desolation. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors. Following the stripping of the church, please depart this worship space in silence.

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning Resurrection. Please leave the sanctuary silently.

Fri. 03/29 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.

Sun. 03/31 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service

7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast following Sunrise Service

10:30 a.m. Celebrate the Resurrection

