ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST "We Shine For All Through Christ" St. Marys, Ohio

April 6, 2023 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday is the day that we remember Jesus celebrating his final Passover with his disciples, otherwise known as the last supper. As we gather together this evening, I encourage you to reflect on the significance of the event as it happened then and how God is communicating God's love to you even now.

PRELUDE "When You Woke That Thursday Morning" Marty Haugen

*CALL TO WORSHIP FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

Leader: This is a night to remember, the night when Jesus was betrayed.

Are you ready to come to the feet of Christ, whose life was poured out for you?

People: By the grace of God, we are.

Leader: Can you watch while Jesus prays in the garden?

People: By the grace of God, we can.

Leader: Will you follow Jesus, even into the night of betrayal?

People: By the grace of God, we will.

ALL: We remember this night and thank God, even in the hours of darkness,

for Jesus' presence with us.

*UNISON PRAYER

Though you are God, with all the influence and status that the name implies, you refused to pull rank, and parade your power among us.

Instead, you chose to step down into our experience, living among us, as one of us, with all the struggle and suffering that goes with being human.

More than that, you adopted the role of slave, washing feet, serving people of no reputation or social standing, and giving of yourself completely.

As incredible as it sounds, you are the God who serves, and we can respond in no other way than to give ourselves to you in praise.

Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN #655 "Come Away From Rush and Hurry"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 12:1-14

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:1-17, 31-35 (video)

THE MESSAGE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY "The Table and Remembrance"

SPECIAL VIDEO "In Remembrance of Me"

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION Congregation prays in silence

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN #261 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

At the close of the service the bell tolls seven times, slowly and deliberately, to mark the fullness of the sufferings of Christ.

*Stripping of the altar

The ancient practice of stripping the Lord's table and sanctuary following communion is a vivid and dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane and what followed. Designated persons pick up the cloths on the Lord's table and the pulpit and other hangings, banners, candlesticks, and decorations and quietly carry them from the sanctuary. This may be done in silence. The church then remains bare until the Easter Sunrise, when the process is reversed.

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Please leave the sanctuary silently.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 201 N. PERRY ST., ST. MARYS, OH 45885

(419) 394-3811 (Church Office) (419) 394-8733 (Church Fax)

email: smucc@bright.net website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com

email for Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer: rhainer@bright.net and cell phone number: (563) 210-3508

email for prayer team requests to Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com

email for Christian Education: jnjl2021@gmail.com

email for youth director: youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com email for media: spmedia@bright.net

Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist Ann Vogel, Organist Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant Rich Spencer, Audio and Video Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinators Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher Andrea Spencer, Organist Madeline Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodian Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary

