

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
March 24, 2016
7:30PM



Maundy is an English form of the Latin word for commandment. The overarching theme of Maundy Thursday is Jesus' new commandment, given on this the eve of his death, to "love one another even as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Maundy Thursday is not only the night in which Jesus washed his disciples' feet, and later lifted up the bread and the wine and established a new sacrament in his name - it is also the night of Gethsemane - the night of anguish of soul as he faced his betrayal and fast approaching death.

PRELUDE

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

arr. Hart Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, come and seek the mysteries unfolding.

Squint your eye and bend your ear to these deep things of God.

The Son gathers with his followers, celebrating the ancient sacrifice of blood, of the coming of death, of the Passing Over of the Angel of death, foreshadowing what is to come.

The Son gathers with his followers, showing them the extent of his love.

The Son gathers with his followers, instituting a new covenant.

All things begin to come together here, here in the upper room.

Lord, let us look on and listen in to these mysteries.

Draw us deeper still, Spirit of God, into the depth, the significance of this celebration.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN NO. 202

"An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare"

O Waly Waly

Lighting the candles tonight is Acolyte Alexis Chiappetta.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

My sisters and brothers, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of his Spirit.

(A moment of silence for personal confession)

Let us pray:

O God, even now, we feel the darkness gather as we tell the stories of the Last Supper and your time in the Garden of Gethsemane. A sense of loneliness and foreboding hangs in the air. We want to believe we would not have abandoned you in your time of need had we been with you. But in our hearts, we know our behavior would not have differed from that of the disciples. We know this because we still turn away from you when it is expedient. We put other things before our commitment to you and fail to heed your command to serve others. Forgive us for not being more faithful. Forgive us when we are reluctant to share the Good News, worried more about offending someone than offering them hope. In this time before Easter, help us to reflect and remember what your persecution and death mean to us. May we be prepared to greet Easter with a sense of awe and a renewed commitment to a new life in you, through Christ the Paschal Lamb. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING *“The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Peace”*

**“The Kingdom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit
Come Lord and open in us
The gates of your Kingdom”**

SCRIPTURE READING John 13:1-16 Page 101, NT

ANTHEM *“Come, Let Us Eat”* arr. Jonathan Strommen Campbell

MEDITATION Dr. Sommers

OFFERING
Tonight’s offering will go to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with a special focus on the water crisis in Flint, MI.

OFFERTORY *“My Song is Love Unknown”* arr. David Cherwien

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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 AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *“We Will Rise Again”* David Haas

Text based on Isaiah 40:11, 26, 29-30, 41:10

Please join the choir in singing the refrain:

**“We will run and not be weary, for our God will be our strength,
And we will fly like the eagle, we will rise again.”**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 785 *“In Deepest Night”* Rose Mary

*BENEDICTION

****Please rise in body or in spirit***

† If you are new to the church... **Welcome!** We’re glad to have you here. Please ask an usher to direct you to *Visitor packets* at the rear of the church. They can be found on the table near the usher’s closet under the balcony stairs.

† **A Special Thank You to our MUSIC PARTICIPANTS:**

Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs; First Church Ringers; Rebecca Vega, flute

† The bread for communion was prepared by members of the Westminster Choir.

† We will celebrate the Eucharist by Intinction, and will include both wine and juice. You are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread, and dip it into the cup of juice or wine. If you desire to partake of communion from your seat, please remain seated and an elder will serve you. All baptized believers, including children who have been instructed in the meaning of the sacrament, are welcome to participate. Our Communion Servers tonight are Nancy Scarrillo and Barbara Heuston.

† On Saturday, March 26th at 8:00PM, you are invited to a special worship opportunity offered by the Youth of our church, **The Great Vigil of Easter Service.** The Great Vigil of Easter traces its roots to the earliest days of Christianity. This four-part liturgy begins with the Service of Light where the new fire is blessed and the people follow the lighted Paschal Candle into the sanctuary just as the Israelites followed the pillars of cloud and fire when they were delivered from bondage. The second part of the service consists of several readings from the Old and New Testaments as we retell our “holy history” as God’s children, summarizing the faith into which we are baptized. This is followed by the Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant. The Vigil culminates in the joyous celebration of communion when the risen Lord invites all to participate in new life by sharing in the family meal, a foretaste of the messianic banquet. The Vigil thus celebrates what God has done, is doing, and will do.

† “The Non-Conformist” displayed on the Westville Avenue wall is the work of artist James H. Daugherty and was a gift to the church from Mary Ann Reed and her late husband, Henry.

† It is easy to join our mailing list! Just text FPC to 42828 and follow the prompt to send your e-mail address by text message.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

March 25 9AM-3PM Good Friday Children’s Program
12:00 Noon Good Friday - A Time for Reflection & Meditation
7:30PM Good Friday Worship - Tenebrae Service

March 26 8:00PM Easter Vigil Worship Service - Communion

EASTER SUNDAY

March 27 6:30 AM Early Dawn Worship in the Old Burying Ground
9:30 AM Festival Worship Service with Kid’s Page ages 2-5
11:00 AM Festival Worship Service with Kid’s Page ages 2-5



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