

Welcomę to Faith United Church of Christ

April 13, 2017 *Maundy Thursday* **7:00 P.M.**

*Those Able Please Stand

Maundy is the English form of the Latin word meaning commandment. Jesus' new commandment to "love one another even as I have loved you" is the focus of Maundy Thursday.

This unconditional love is demonstrated in Jesus' example of servanthood and the gift of his Spirit in Holy Communion.

ON THIS NIGHT WE COMMEMORATE THE LAST SUPPER THAT JESUS SHARED WITH HIS DISCIPLES. WE SHARE IN THAT SUPPER IN THAT WE BECOME THE BODY OF CHRIST AND SHARE CHRIST'S SAME SPIRIT – THE BODY SYMBOLIZED BY THE BREAD WE EAT, AND THE SPIRIT BY THE JUICE WE DRINK. THE BREAD STRENGTHENS US TO LABOR IN THE SERVICE OF GOD, AND THE JUICE GIVES US THE INSPIRATION AND VITALITY OF SPIRIT THAT WE MAY TAKE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR LABORS – DOING THEM IN LOVE AND JOY, AS DID JESUS.

Time for Quiet Prayer and Meditation

Prelude Adorn Thyself, O Beloved Soul J. Brahms
Receiving the Light of God

***Maundy Thursday Hymn** **#225**
"It Was a Sad and Solemn Night" vss. 1, 2, 4

*Call to Confession and Resolve

O God who invites us to your table:

We come hungry and thirsty for your truth to abide in us.

We have not been as welcoming to others when we have seen them in their need.

We have not invited the poor to our table...have not liberated the oppressed to eat at their own tables...and have not quenched the thirst of those who came to us seeking for friendship.

We have rejected, abandoned, and betrayed – sometimes intentionally, sometimes inadvertently.

Help us to forgive, even as we seek to be forgiven.

Grant that the 'truth' we see within ourselves will not limit us from obtaining the 'Truth' that you intend for us.

Feed us with faith that we may prepare a banquet of justice in your honor for all peoples of the world. In Christ name we pray, Amen

While some plan for shared times of beauty and grace, others plot against even those they love most in the world. What leads a friend to betray? What leads a friend to be generous?

Time of Prayer

Congregational Call to Prayer *Tune: Morecambe 10 10.10 10*

"Spirit of God, I come to you this day;

Guide me, inspire me, as to you I pray.

Grant me the courage to obey your will;

till I amidst alarms am calmly still."

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Our Collective Prayer (Together)

"O God, our Divine Parent, may your presence be ever revered. May your peace and justice dwell among us. May your love and compassion live within and between us. Nourish us daily with the necessities of life; sustenance for our bodies, and inspiration for our spirits. And may the forgiveness we give be that which we receive; the kindness we show be that which we perceive. Lead us on virtuous paths, and distance us from evil. For your world is our world, and your reign our reign; then, now, and always. May it be so."

Congregational Response to Prayer *Tune: Morecambe*

"Spirit of God, renew, transform my soul;

create in me a life that's truly whole.

May I more loving be to everyone;

and know the peace of faithfulness well run."

The Passover meal was nothing new to Jesus and his disciples, nor to any Jewish person. But Jesus gave new meaning to this meal as he reinterpreted it in light of his own imminent circumstance.

*Hymn of the Soul's Need

#227

"Christ at Table There with Friends"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

(As Christ calls all people to God's table of forgiveness and loving fellowship, The United Church of Christ affirms an open Communion Table. All persons are welcome to partake of this sacrament who wish to do so regardless of religious affiliation, providing that you come in the spirit of peace and mutual love for one another. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread from the loaf, dip it into the cup, and eat

in thankfulness of God's welcome to you. Return then to your seat by the side aisles.)

The Call to the Lord's Supper

The sacrament of our Lord's Supper is prepared for our participation.

We come to Christ's table, not because of our righteousness in being the kind of stewards God has called us to be; but because of our thankfulness for being loved despite our failings.

We eat and drink in memory of Jesus, proclaiming his death as the seal of God's covenant.

By grace, God receives us and forgives us. By faith we claim that forgiveness, dedicate ourselves to better stewardship, and rejoice in this covenant we have with our God.

Partaking of the Bread and Juice

"Commune with Me" (Please sing while others are coming forward)

Tune: Land of Rest; C.M.; Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;

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1) "Commune with me," did Jesus ask the twelve disciples there
"Forget your past, come be with me to learn to love and care."

2) Though Jesus knew he'd be betrayed by one who came to dine
He kept his welcome open still, and shared his bread and wine

3) Though all the twelve would him deny, he gathered them around
To bless their meal and bless their souls that peace in them be found

4) We're called by Christ to now partake, of bread that makes us one
We're called by Christ to feed our souls with love for everyone

5) Sometimes we'll walk our arms in arms, sometimes we'll run so free
But other times we'll stoop to help and walk on bended knees

6) We'll visit gardens of delight where beauty 'round us lies
We'll sing a song of joyful praise until our spirits rise

7) And to Gethsemane we'll go, when all our strength's used up
To pray we will not have to drink of suffering's bitter cup

8) Commune with me you did in joy, but will you in despair?
When I shed tears of hopelessness, will you my soul repair?

Though Jesus had asked his disciples to commune with one another in love and peace, they turned what was to be a meal of friendly fellowship and caring concern into a dispute.

***Hymn of a Garden Draped in Darkness**

"Journey to Gethsemane"

#219

vs. 1

***Hymn of Waiting**

"O Wait, O Wait, with Me A While"

Tune: Land of Rest; C.M.; Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;

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O wait, O wait, with me a while; O stay I beg you please!
Compassion show to me this hour; my soul, will you appease?

My heart is wrenched, my mind disturbed, forsaken in this place
Alone, bewildered and betrayed; I cannot see God's face

Who's that I hear approaching now, awake the time is near
I prayed it would not come to this; O God, release my fear!

I shall not fight with swords or words, my virtue shall remain
It's all I have my dignity, from violence I'll abstain

When friends and family disperse, when all seems so obscene
There still is one who hovers near, whose love can still redeem

Message

Our Gifts of Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology**

(Tune: Old Hundredth)

Christ gave the gift of life anew

And taught us values to hold true

Our cross we go to gladly bear

Till peace and love reign ev'rywhere

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Going Forth with the Blessing of God**

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

#82

vs. 1

(Please leave silently.)

Thanks to our Readers:

Nathan Limbert

Lois Bair

Brent Frank

Neil Christy

*Music to the Call to Prayer and Response to Prayer were written by Frederick C. Atkinson,
1870*

*The liturgies, and words of the music, for this evening's worship, were written
by Rev. Bret S. Myers except where otherwise noted.*