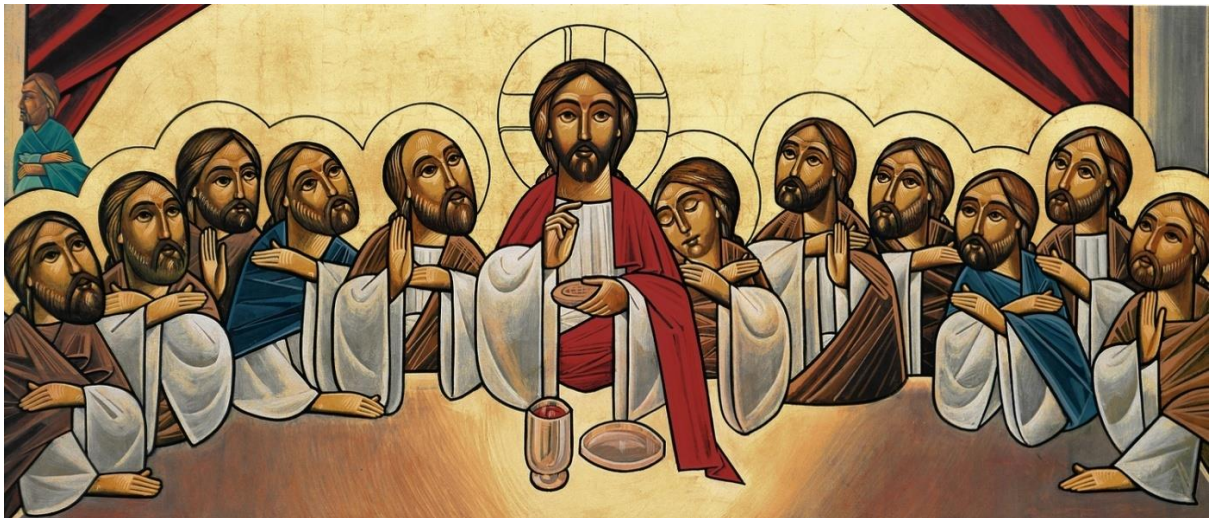


STARVIEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
APRIL 17, 2025



“A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.” ~ JOHN 13:34-35

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**GREETING**

Pastor: We gather tonight to tell the old, old story.

**Congregation: It is a story of bitterness and betrayal,  
of despair, denial, and death.**

Pastor: We gather tonight to tell an even older story  
prepared before the worlds began:

**Congregation: It is a story of love powerful enough to rewrite our endings -  
with the promise of new life.**

Pastor: In the telling of the story,  
in the breaking of the bread,  
in the coming of the night,

**Congregation: we draw near once more to Christ.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true.  
It satisfies my longing as nothing else can do.*

**(Refrain)**

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory –  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat;  
what seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.*

*I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own Holy Word. **(Refrain)***

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best –  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song –  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **(Refrain)***

**DINNER BLESSING & A MEAL IS SHARED**

**All people:** *Heavenly Father, as we gather to share this meal, we give thanks for  
the nourishment you provide. Bless this food to our bodies, and may  
the love shared in this meal strengthen our bonds. Let our hearts be  
filled with gratitude and our spirits uplifted, as we seek to honor you  
in all we say and do. Amen.*

## SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

*The order of service this holy night may feel backwards from what many of us are used to — beginning with Communion and ending with Confession. This order follows the experience of the disciples and invites us into an unsettled time.*

### PRELUDE

### HYMN

#### *Just As I Am*

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot;  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt;  
Fightings within, and fears without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind;  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

### WE TELL THE STORY (Mark 14:17-31)

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor: We stand at this table because it is an echo of another table:  
that table in an upper room in Jerusalem  
where Jesus sat with his 12 friends,  
friends who would betray, deny and fall away from him,  
friends he loved and laid down his life for.

**Congregation: The story of God is always the story of faithfulness,  
of going through the hard times together,  
of God's "yes" being louder than all our "maybes."**

Pastor: We remember how it all started,  
when God created the world,  
every precious beautiful bit of creation,  
God's own artwork, including us:

**Congregation: but we rebelled, and did the one thing we were asked not to do  
and we hid from God in the garden.  
We were cast out of that garden, but not away from God's heart.**

Pastor: When we were slaves in Egypt, God rescued us,  
and fed us with manna in the wilderness,  
brought forth water from the rock.

**Congregation: God was faithful to us while we made idols and broke God's commandments.**

Pastor: Again and again God said, "I am your God, and you are my people."

**Congregation: God sent us prophets to call out our disobedience, and to promise us that God is faithful still.**

Pastor: In time, Christ came to walk among us, to show us just how far God would go to prove his love for us.

**Congregation: Christ read God's Word to us, sang with us, healed us, fed us, prayed for us, cast demons out of us, grew tired like us, and at the end – at the very end – gave us one last gift.**

### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor: During that Last Supper, Jesus took the bread, broke it and blessed it, saying: this bread is my body, broken for you, whenever you eat it, remember me.  
And after supper Jesus took the cup, and poured it out, saying, "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. As often as you drink it, remember me."

### **ANTHEM**

*Remember Me*

**Chancel Choir**

### **EPICLESIS**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, come. Rest upon the bread and cup and make them something holy, something to nourish and sustain our faith, something that still tastes like hope. Rest upon us too, that Christ's image will be renewed within us, our trust in your love restored, and our spirits refreshed for caring service. Amen.

You are now invited to start the bread around your table, with one person holding the loaf as the next person pulls a piece from it. This serving one another continues around the table. Hold onto your piece of bread until your neighbor holds the cup for you to dip the bread into it. *Commune before passing the cup* along to the next person. There is no need to say anything. Simply eat. Drink. Receive and remember Christ's love for you. Remember God's faithfulness endures forever.

### **ELEMENTS ARE SHARED**

Pastor: It was the last supper, but not the last meal that Christ would share with his disciples. Because yes, our faithlessness would sentence him to the cross and yes, the God who was bold enough to be human would die, and yes, the sky would darken, and yes, the Temple curtain would be torn in two.

**Congregation:** **But God was still faithful. And three days later, Christ would rise again, and there would be breakfast.**

Pastor: A first breakfast cooked fresh - right there on the beach, to prove to us that nothing – not even death can separate us from the love of God. God is faithful.

**Congregation;** **So faithful.**

Pastor: Then, now, and forever.

**All people:** **Amen.**

## **WE TELL THE STORY (Mark 14:32-42)**

### **HYMN**

#### ***“Tis Midnight and on Olive’s Brow***

*‘Tis midnight; and on Olive’s brow, the star is dimmed that lately shone.*

*“Tis midnight in the garden now. The suffering Savior prays alone.*

*‘Tis midnight and from all removed, the Savior wrestles lone with fears.*

*E’en the disciple that He loved heeds not His Master’s grief and pain.*

*‘Tis midnight and for others’ guilt, the Man of Sorrows weeps in blood.*

*Yet He, who hath in anguish knelt is not forsaken by His God.*

*‘Tis midnight from the heavenly plains – is born the song that angels know.*

*Unheard by mortals are the strains that sweetly soothe the Savior’s woes.*

## **WE JOIN WITH JESUS IN PRAYER**

Pastor: Jesus prayed. He prayed to his Abba, the Father he knew and loved, because he was hurting and sad and afraid and because he trusted. So we pray with Jesus. I invite you during the pauses to simply offer the names of those you are praying for, aloud or in silence. After each pause, I will say “in your love, Lord,” and you will respond, “hear our prayers.”

Pastor: Lord, in this garden, as night falls around us, we pray.  
We pray for those who are exhausted,  
out of energy, out of hope,  
out of faith or out of tries.

*(pause and prayers offered)*

In your love, Lord,

**Congregation:** **hear our prayers.**

Pastor: We pray for those who are anxious,  
uncertain of the future,  
wary of the present,  
with hearts and minds that cannot find rest.

*(pause and prayers offered)*

In your love, Lord,

**Congregation;** **hear our prayers.**

Pastor: We pray for those who despair,  
for whom the night has been too long,  
the grief too heavy,  
and the comfort is too shallow.  
*(pause and prayers offered)*

**Congregation:** In your love, Lord,  
**hear our prayers.**

Pastor: We pray for those in pain tonight,  
whether of body, mind or soul.  
We pray for those in need of your healing touch.  
*(pause and prayers offered)*

**Congregation:** In your love, Lord,  
**hear our prayers.**

Pastor: We pray for those who are too close to death tonight,  
whether they are entering your rest,  
or grieving someone gone,  
or haunted by what they have seen or experienced.  
*(pause and prayers offered)*

**Congregation:** In your love, Lord,  
**hear our prayers.**

Pastor: And Lord, we pray for ourselves,  
that we would have the strength  
to stay awake just a little longer,  
to stick with those we love,  
to take notice of the suffering,  
to trust that with you, we are enough.  
Jesus did not ask his friends  
to change his fate, only to stay with him -  
to stay with him as he met it.

**Congregation:** **In your love, Lord, fill us with the kind of love  
that sticks around,  
even while night is falling.**

*All people: And finally, give us courage to pray as Jesus taught those same disciples,  
saying, "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 sins as we forgive those who sin  
against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For  
Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**WE TELL THE STORY** (Mark 14:43-52)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: God, your faithfulness to us is so great, that we cannot help but fall short. So we stand before you “naked” - utterly exposed and transparent to confess our sins, out of the hope you, yourself, gave us:

**Congregation: that you still set a place for us at the banquet of grace,  
to clothes us with forgiveness and feed us mercy,  
no matter what we have done,  
no matter what we may yet do.**

Pastor: And so tonight, we confess, and we put our trust in you.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*All people: For every time you asked us to stay with you,  
and we wandered away,  
forgive us.  
For every time we fell asleep  
on the job of being your disciples,  
forgive us.  
For every time we boasted of our loyalty,  
yet crept away,  
betrayed,  
or denied you,  
forgive us.  
For every time we hear this story,  
and think “we will do better,” yet don’t,  
forgive us.  
For every time we meet your faithfulness,  
with faithlessness,  
forgive us.  
God, your love for us is unfathomably deep,  
that you would take all our failures,  
and still love us as friends.  
May we take the gift of your forgiveness,  
and share it with the world,  
that you made and loved so much.  
Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, the story we tell tonight is a story of the deepest love; love that would offer forgiveness even to the traitor at its right hand. The bread was for us; the cup, for us; the cross, for us! We are forgiven, not easily, but the hard way. We are forgiven, not cheaply, but wholly. We are forgiven, and we are freed.

*All people: Praise be to God. Amen.*

## WE TELL THE STORY (Mark 14: 53-65)

**HYMN*****Ah, Holy Jeus!***

*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended? That man to judge Thee, hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.*

*For me, kind Jesus, was Thy incarnation; Thy mortal sorrow, and Thy life's oblation.  
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion - for my salvation.*

*Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray Thee,  
think on Thy pity and thy love unswerving - not my deserving.*

**WE TELL THE STORY (Mark 14:66-72)****HYMN*****“Were You There?”***

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh-o-o-oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble. Tremble. Tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh-o-o-oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble...tremble...tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh-o-o-oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble...tremble...tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

**CLOSING WORDS**

Pastor: We go forth to wait for the dawn.  
The light is failing.

**Congregation: We are failing too.**

Pastor: Yet the ancient promise holds true.

**Congregation: God does miracles during the night,  
when all is dark.**

Pastor: And, in just a few days,  
the dawn will break.  
The light of the world will rise.

**Congregation: And we will see new life.**

Pastor: Hold fast.

**Congregation: The story is not over.**

**All people: Amen.**

***The Congregation departs in silence.***

*The story will continue tomorrow at the Community Good Friday Service being held at Cassels Community Church, 570 Cassel Rd., Manchester. We will then, gather for a 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service at Hoover Cemetery, Mt. Wolf, followed by breakfast in our own Fellowship Hall at Starview UCC. At 9 AM, we will gather for worship in the sanctuary for an exuberant Service of Word and Sacrament.*



