

**Starview United Church of Christ**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**April 6, 2023**

**INTRODUCTION TO MAUNDY THURSDAY**

This service has two primary parts:

- In Fellowship Hall - A Ritual of handwashing and the sharing of a meal, which includes Holy Communion. All are invited to participate as one of Jesus' disciples at the Last Supper.
- In the sanctuary - A service of Shadows or Tenebrae in which we meditate on the passion of Christ and his experience, in dramatic form, with the extinguishing of light.

**RITUAL OF HANDWASHING**

*If someone arrives after the dinner grace and ritual of handwashing, please wash the hands of that person to symbolize the humbling of ourselves in service to one another. Jesus said, "for I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." (John 13:15)*

**PRELUDE**

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode**

**GATHERING WORDS**

**Pastor:** We are gathered in the presence of God, who asks us to choose between life and death, between blessing and curse.

**Congregation:** **We are gathered like the people of Israel, who were challenged to choose the way of life.**

**Pastor:** Like them, we often follow the ways of death.

**Congregation:** **Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day to begin anew by the grace of God.**

**Pastor:** By our presence here, we are saying that we choose life.

**All:** *Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place. Amen.*

**INTRODUCTION**

**MEAL GRACE**

**A SIMPLE MEAL IS SHARED**

**THE MAUNDY THURSDAY TABLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm 51)

**Pastor:** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Congregation:** **Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Pastor:** Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure.

**Congregation:** **Wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

HYMN

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Day*

1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For us didst fast and pray,  
 2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And didst the vic - tory win,  
 3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas - sion - tide,  
 4. A - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,

Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.  
 O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con - quer sin.  
 Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
 An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last! A-MEN.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
 Congregation: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**  
 Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us confess our sins in silence and ask God for the forgiveness we need.

**A TIME OF SILENCE IS OBSERVED FOR CONFESSION**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: While we were yet helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.  
 All: *The love of God for us is shown in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

HYMN

*Just As I Am*

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With ma - ny a con - flict, ma - ny a doubt,  
 4. Just as I am—Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;  
 5. Just as I am—Thy love un - known Hath bro - ken ev - 'ry bar - rier down;

And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 Fight - ings with - in, and fears with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

## INVITATION

Pastor: This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way.  
Come to this table, not because you must, but because you may.  
Come not because you are fulfilled, but because you are empty.  
Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for the Spirit.  
Come to the table, sisters and brothers, as you are.  
Partake and share.  
It is spread for you and me that we might know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's kingdom.  
Let us pray together:

**All:** *We give you thanks, Holy One, for calling forth the creation and raising it from dust by the breath of your being.*

**Table 1:** We bless you for your continual care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people.

**Table 2:** Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us into the way of salvation.

**Table 3:** Above all, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our only Savior, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

**Table 4:** In the fullness of time you came to us and received our nature in the person of Jesus, who in obedience to you, by suffering on the cross, and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death.

Pastor: We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us in one holy church.

**All:** *Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, God Most Holy, saying: Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!*

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you, O God, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Take. Eat. Do this and remember me.

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, said: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let us pray: Holy One, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your entire church through these holy mysteries. Grant that all who share the communion of the body and blood of our risen Savior may be one in Jesus Christ. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on the gifts of bread and cup and on us. Strengthen your church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world.

*All: Be present with us as we share this meal and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit lives forever. Amen.*

*Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God are now ready. Take, eat, and drink in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you.*

### **SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

*(The body of Christ, broken for you; The blood of Christ, shed for you.)*

*Pastor: Let us pray together.*

*All: O God, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, the one and only begotten by you before all the worlds. We thank you for the splendor of Christ's life of service. We thank you for the symbols of love and humility – like basins of water and washcloths, bread and juice pressed from fruit of the vine. We ask that you strengthen us, for the service to which you call us, that we may find in lowering ourselves, in washing and feeding others, and in all acts of mercy, the fullness of life that we see in Jesus Christ, who is with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

***Please remain seated until your table is released by the Liturgist and/or Pastor.***

***Please enter the sanctuary in reverent silence.***

*As you prepare to move to the sanctuary, please reflect on the next few days:*

***Community Good Friday service tomorrow at 2 PM***

***Easter Sunrise – 6:30 AM at Hoover Cemetery, Codorus Furnace Road***

***Easter Breakfast – 7:30 AM. Downstairs in Fellowship Hall***

***Easter Service of Word & Sacrament – 9 AM in Sanctuary***

## TENEBRAE: A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

After the NINTH READING, there will be a harsh noise, symbolizing the earthquake and a tearing of the temple curtain, which took place when Jesus "gave up his spirit." Please prepare yourself and any children, as it may frighten them.

### PRELUDE

*In an Upper Room*

Chancel Choir

### COLLECT

Pastor: God be with you.

Congregation: **And, also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: *Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine the day and the moon and stars to shine by night. Kindle in us the flame of your love that our lives may shine the radiance of your light and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory, through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.*

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### HYMN

*Sun of My Soul, O Savior Dear*

1 Sun of my soul, O Sav - ior dear, it is not  
2 A - bide with me from morn till eve, for with - out  
3 Watch by the sick; en - rich the poor with bless - ings  
4 Come near and bless us when we wake, as through the

night if you are near; O may no earth - born  
you I can - not live; A - bide with me when  
from your bound - less store; Be ev - ery mourn - er's  
world our way we take, Till through your love which

cloud a - rise to hide you from your ser - vant's eyes.  
night is nigh, for with - out you I dare not die.  
sleep to - night, like in - fants' slum - bers, pure and light.  
knows no end we gain at last the peace of heaven.

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: *O Gracious Light, as we now come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold your vesper light. We sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity. Amen.*

## READINGS AND EXTINGUISHING OF LIGHTS

### SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

FIRST READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

Matthew 26:20-25

### SHADOW OF DESERTION

SECOND READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

Matthew 26:31-35

### AGONY OF THE SOUL

THIRD READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

Luke 22:39-44

## HYMN

### *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (Verses 1, 2, & 3)

1. Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, you who feel the tempt-er's power;  
2. Fol - low to the judg-ment hall; view the Lord of life ar-raigned;  
3. Cal-vary's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at His feet,  
4. Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid His breath-less clay;

your Re-deem - er's con-flict see; watch with Him one bit - ter hour;  
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sus-tained!  
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
all is sol - i - tude and gloom; who has tak - en Him a - way?

turn not from His griefs a - way; learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf-fering, shame, or loss; learn of Him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin - ished!" Hear the cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes: Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

UNSHARED VIGIL

FOURTH READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

Mark 14:32-41

“FATHER, THE HOUR HAS COME”

FIFTH READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

John 17:1-6

“THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE”

SIXTH READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

John 17:15-22

HYMN

*More Love to Thee*

1. More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee! Hear Thou the  
 2. Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now Thee a -  
 3. Let sor - row do its work, come grief and pain; sweet are Thy  
 4. Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per Thy praise; this be the

pray'r I make on bend - ed knee. This is my ear - nest plea:  
 lone I seek; give what is best. This all my pray'r shall be:  
 mes - sen - gers, sweet their re - frain, when they can sing with me:  
 part - ing cry my heart shall raise; this still its pray'r shall be:

More love, O Christ, to Thee; more love to Thee, more love to Thee!

ARREST IN THE GARDEN

SEVENTH READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

John 18:1-5

SHADOW OF THE CROSS

EIGHTH READING  
LIGHT DIMINISHES

Mark 15:16-20

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*Church Members are invited to come forward to help strip the altar and carry the paraments and adornments out of the worship space. The altar represents Jesus' presence in our midst. The stripping of the altar symbolizes the violent stripping, repulsive spitting, and cruel taunting of our Savior.*

**THE STREPITUS**

*Symbolizes the earthquake and tearing of the temple curtain, which happened when Jesus "gave up his spirit."*

**THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED AND REMOVED FROM THE SANCTUARY**

*The Christ Candle's removal signifies the apparent victory of evil.*

**SILENCE**

*Represents the 3 hours of darkness that happened when Christ died on Calvary.*

**THE CHRIST CANDLE IS RETURNED TO THE SANCTUARY**

*The return symbolizes our hope and anticipation of Christ's resurrection.*

**HYMN***Were You There?*

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**THE WORD WAS GOD****FINAL READING**

John 1:1-4, 10, 12, 3:19

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Gloria Moyer, Dulcimer

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*All: 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.*

***In reverent silence, we depart without a benediction.***