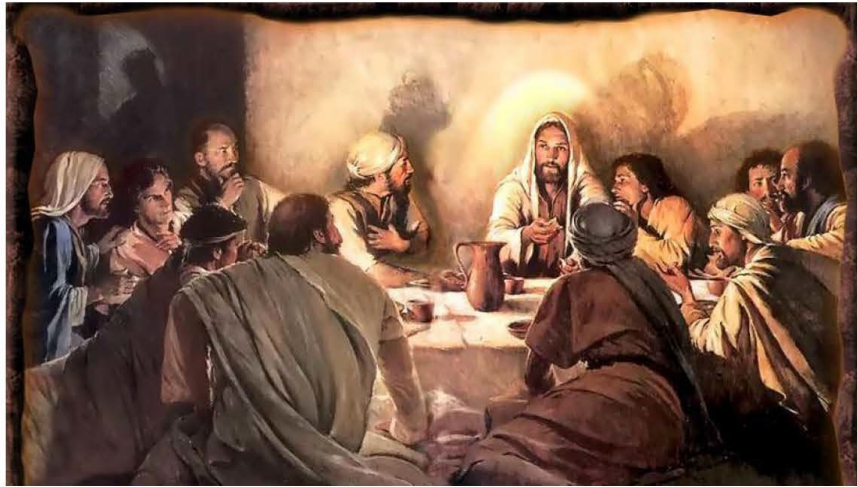


Maundy Thursday at Bethel – 7pm

Meet in the Parlor



**prayer, fellowship, sharing stories, a
light meal & communion.**

*(Enter the building from the F street porch
door or the ramp beside the parking lot)*

**Bethel Congregational Church UCC
& First Christian Church Ontario**

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

<https://bethelucontario.org> info@bethelucontario.org

<https://fccontario.org/> office@fccontario.org

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

This service combines Maundy Thursday's new commandment, a fellowship meal, the Last Supper and communion. As we eat, we reflect upon the text of Maundy Thursday.

Tables are set up so that everyone is seated at table. A simple fellowship meal precedes the liturgy (make sure that a basket of bread is on the table for all to share and that a bottle of sparkling grape juice is also there to share.) Toward the end of the meal, break into it with the following liturgy. The idea is that like Jesus' last supper with his disciples, the meaning of the meal just suddenly unfolds with Jesus' odd words interjected into what seemed like a rather ordinary meal of the day.

At the beginning of the meal, before the prayer, welcome everyone and explain the service, particularly mentioning that

- *Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin mandatum, which means commandment. Maundy Thursday is the time we celebrate Jesus giving people the new commandment that we love one another as he has loved us. In the bulletins on your table you will find the traditional scripture text for Maundy Thursday [show what it looks like]. After you're all seated, we will have someone read it aloud. Then answer the questions as you talk together during the meal. Feel free to avail yourself of the meal as you will.*

- *We will have a communal liturgy together at the end of the meal,*
- *We will be celebrating both Maundy Thursday and communion.*

Stay as long as you'd like afterward. Feel free to go into the sanctuary for prayer.

Prayer before Meal:

On this holy night, O Lord, we gather to ask your blessing. Thank you for the provision of this food and those who have had a hand in its preparation. May it nourish holy communion with you and one another as we share together at table and remember your love for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord of all of creation. Amen.

Foot or Hand Washing: *A basin of water is placed on the table before us. Please gather around the basin and briefly wash each other's hands or feet in turn, so that each person has their hands or feet washed by the person ahead of them and then washes the hands of the next person. When everyone is done washing and being washed, return to your seats.*

The Meal

Table Talk

The following passage is provided in the bulletins or on the tables for informal sharing. Select a reader to read aloud for everyone to follow.

During supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. . . . I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." [John 13:2b-15, 34-35]

Invite all to share, including children, but require none to speak.

- What did you hear in this text that spoke to you? Or which character do you most relate to in this text?
- Many people do a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday. We are going to offer a choice of foot washing or handwashing. How does that make you feel? (i.e. relieved, sad, indifferent, etc.) Why?
- If Jesus were to wash your feet and then ask you to do the same for others, how might your life be different?

SONG**"This is the Body of Christ"****by John Bell**

*This is the Body of Christ, broken that we may be whole;
This cup, as promised by God, true to his word, cradles our Lord;
food for the good of the soul.*

949 This Is the Body of Christ

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 3/8. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the piano accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "This is the Bod - y of Christ, bro - ken that we may be whole; this cup, as prom - ised by God, true to his word, cra - dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

This is the Bod - y of Christ,
bro - ken that we may be whole; this cup, as
prom - ised by God, true to his word, cra - dles our
Lord: food for the good of the soul.

TABLE LITURGY

As people are finishing, call all to attention in the appropriate communal manner and then launch into the following liturgy with no further ado to get the effect of divine interjection:

VOICE 1: When it was evening, Jesus took his place with his disciples, and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

VOICE 2: “Who? Who will betray you? they all wondered. Surely not me. Tell us who, Jesus.

VOICE 3: “The one who dips his hand into the dish with me.”

VOICE 4: But that’s all of us. We’ve all shared this common meal.

Brief Silence

Communion

Invitation

Pastor Sylvia

(Remind all of Open Table).

Jesus said “I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst” All who hunger for spiritual food, come to this table and know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Ben

L May God be with you

P And also with you

L Lift up your hearts

P We lift them up to God

L Let us give thanks to the God we love;

P It is right to give thanks and praise

Prayer (Pastors or Unison)

God/Creator – close as our breath, thanks for love. Life. Every generation, walk of life, all your children. Grateful for mercy, forgiveness of our pride and blindness. Rejoice in hope, salvation, grace and Jesus who shares our earthly suffering and joy. We remember Christ’s death, celebrate with resurrection, and seek to follow Christ’s way, serving those around us. Come Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Pastor - Pick up bread from the basket on the table, saying

The last time he sat at table with his disciples, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Take bread from your table and share it with one another with the words, "The body of Christ" until all have bread. We will partake together after all are served.

Raise your bread, and partake.

Pastor - After eating, continue, pouring the grape juice into the cup you used for supper, saying

Thank you, Lord, that after eating together, you took a cup and gave it to your friends, saying, "Drink from this all of you, this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Pour the grape juice in one another's cups at your table with the words, "The cup of the covenant" We will drink together when all are served.

Lift your cup, and partake.

Prayer of Thanks and Hope (unison):

Send forth your Holy Spirit now, we pray, That, as we read the ancient story, we may hear you speak.

Keep us all one, even as you prayed that we would all be one, and fill us with the strength to abide with you, and minister to one another, fulfilling your new commandment of love.

This we ask in your holy name. **Amen.**

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

1 When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Christ of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, then, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.

3 From sacred head, from hands, and feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

224

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:7-8

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross,
2 For - bid it, then, that I should boast,
3 From sa - cred head, from hands, and feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,

on which the Christ of glo - ry died,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
sor - row and love flow min - gled down!
that were a pres - ent far too small;

My rich - est gain I count but loss,
All the vain things that charm me most
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet,
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,

and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to Christ's blood.
or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Departure in Silence (when ready)