

† **A SENDING FORTH** (responsive)

L: This night is our calling to go into the world,

P: scattered to the ends of the earth

L: to love as Christ loved

P: and serve in the name of Christ.

L: It is our calling to remember,

P: even in our darkest hour, who we are.

L: We remember that Christ is always with us. And we remember that on this night,

P: we were taught how to love.

L: On this night, eternity begins

P: and the fullness of God's Reign begins to spill into our lives.

L: So go into the world to give yourself for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Go into the world and love in the name of the One who loved you until the end. It all begins and ends and begins again with the love of Christ.

All: That is God's story. Amen.

— written by Rev. Shelli Williams, <http://www.stpaulshouston.org/>

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH (*In Silence*)

POSTLUDE "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Robert J. Hughes

(As the postlude is played, please leave the sanctuary quietly.)

† Please stand if you are able

After the Holy Thursday Communion, we observe "the stripping of the church": working in complete silence, the servers remove one by one each and every item of decoration—vessels, paraments, candles, candlesticks, vases, flags, banners—and everything used in worship other than furniture. Originally a purely utilitarian act necessary for cleaning the church prior to Easter, the stripping of the church has come to symbolize the stripping of Jesus before the Crucifixion. By the time of its conclusion the church's chancel is transformed from being a place of holy worship in the midst of beauty, to what now appears quite like a tomb—with the altar itself now appearing to be a burial sarcophagus. In that transformation a great truth is made visible: that the joy we typically experience in our worship came at the cost of the death of the One we worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOBLESVILLE March 28, 2024



**"This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28, 2024, 7:00 PM

PRELUDE "Lord Have Mercy" Linda Rosen, piano
arr. Carol Tornquist

† OPENING HYMN "You Are My All in All" Words on screen

† CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

L: The entry into Jerusalem -

P: a time of great celebration!

L: The entry into the upper room -

P: a time of great togetherness!

L: The entry into the judgment hall -

P: a time of great humiliation.

L: The entry onto Golgotha -

P: a time of great pain... and death.

L: Our Lenten journey has brought us to this place.

P: To profess our faith.

L: To hear Jesus' Story.

P: To remember his life and his death.

L: Called by God as sisters and brothers in Christ's love...

P: we gather and worship God.

~ from Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Georgia website. <http://www.cbfga.org/>

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

L: Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting your sacrifice and for thinking your grace is cheap.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for using the cross as a trinket, forgetting the agony it represents.

L: Forgive us, Lord, for taking our worship for granted, forgetting the struggle that has assured its freedom.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for being calloused to human cruelty, forgetting that every victim is a creature of God.

L: Forgive us, Lord, for being nonchalant about injustice, forgetting that it still nails innocence to the cross.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for thinking that sacrifice is obsolete, forgetting that we still contend against the powers of darkness.

L: Receive our prayers offered in all humility, as we remember and honor Christ our Lord who prays for us still.

All: Amen.

--The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>

† ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

L: Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end". The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

† HYMN "Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine" Words on screen

MESSAGE "The Jesus Film" Excerpt from Luke 22

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

L: On this night, we gather as the Hebrew people gathered in exile to share the Lamb and celebrate the Lord's passing over them in mercy. On this night, we gather amazed and humbled to have the dust of our souls washed by the servant Messiah. We pause in our hurried lives to ask:

P: What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused Christ to lay aside his life for my soul?

L: We pass on tonight to children and strangers what we have received from you, Lord Jesus: Who on that night you left us took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Do this in remembrance of me," Who took the cup and said, "This is my life for you, share in its newness and remember me."

P: And so we remember how you came to us, poor and vulnerable, how you taught us by story and example, how you fed us on hillside and sea-shore.

L: As we remember you, pour out yourself again to us and by your Holy Spirit make us living remembrances of your great love and life. Fill us with a new understanding of love among all your children that others may see our witness and draw close to you.

P: Merciful Deliverer, Humble Servant, and Love Among Us, Holy Trinity, we give you praise and thanks. Amen.

*(Please Come forward down the right center aisle
to receive the Lord's Supper)*

† CLOSING HYMN "I Will Remember Thee" Words on screen