



First Presbyterian Church of New Philadelphia

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Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 17, 2024

*All may remain seated through the service.

Welcome

(Rev. Joseph Svancara)

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 116:5-9, 12-19)

(Rev. Deborah Bowsher)

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord; I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

***Hymn #98 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression,

But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to Thee.

***Confession and Pardon**
(Rev. Deborah Bowsher)
Eternal God,

Whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse to serve your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.

In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.

Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life, and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Hymn #579 *Gloria Patri
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Apostles' Creed
(Rev. David Bryan)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scriptures

Hear the Word of the LORD:

Exodus 12:21-28

(Michelle Septer)

12 ²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

²⁴ Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷ then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.' " Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸ The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

(Matthew Davis)

11 ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. ³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

John 13:1-20

(Rev. Carolyn Behrendt)

13 ¹ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed

if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

This is the Word of the LORD! **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn #101 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

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.

Liturgy of Washing and Communion
(Rev. Joseph Svancara)

"I am the light of the world, by which you can see what is life. I am the good shepherd, who leaves the ninety-nine to rescue the one, so you might know what mercy can be. I am the gate for the sheep to green pastures and still waters, so you might have abundance. I am the way, truth, and life by which all may approach my heavenly Father, and yours, so you might never be deceived again."

"I have spoken all of these words to you while we walked together, eaten together, learned together, cried together, and strived for what is right together. You have memorized them and kept them at the forefront of your minds so that you might have my wisdom. But now comes the time for me to show them to you, to demonstrate them to you, for you to witness what it means to live my wisdom under the threat of darkness and the heel of the evil one. I prepare you for life with, and beyond, me. Do you still wish to believe?"

**On our own we can know nothing, do nothing, and imagine nothing. Where else can we go?
You have the words of true and abundant life. We confess that we might not know how to believe, so please help us in our unbelief.**

"You already believe because you have been with me. You have witnessed the works of my Father, see me confronted by those who think they know better, seen me reach out to those forgotten, and have all you need to live in my name. You believe because you are here with me now, and allow me to wash your feet. You believe because you have called out to me for help and waited for my answer.

What you need is assurance and confidence that evil cannot triumph, and I will show that with my very body and blood.”

Our ancestors trusted in the promises of the LORD from ancient times. From the faith of Abraham, the law of Moses, and the blood of the Passover. These things we have and possess all our lives. What can you offer?

“I am the bread of life, by which all who are hungry may eat and be satisfied. I gave you mana in the wilderness, never ending containers of flour and oil, and abundance of loaves and fishes. This bread I break is a reminder that I am with you to sustain you as my disciples.”

“I am the true vine by which the Father grows his vineyard so all might partake and celebrate the coming of the true kingdom without end. You will be transplanted, dug around, pruned, and prepared so you also may produce the wine of celebration by which all might drink. This cup I pour is a reminder of the celebration you share with me in my coming victory.”

We accept these gifts, these symbols, these reminders, these precious provisions which are everlasting reminders until we are ready to join you in the promised kingdom.

“I will come again to take you after the victory, and these promises will give you life. But now is the time to witness what awaits you. I wash you, feed you, and prepare you this day for what you shall see me accomplish. I come to make all things new for you, your enemies, and all who will listen to my words repeated. Come and be prepared, for I will overcome all.”

We confess we are tired and weary from the journey we have taken. Help us to keep watch with you a while longer, so we can witness what you have promised.

Bestowing of Washing and Communion

“I know you cannot watch with me for long, for the spirit is willing but the body is weak. But do not despair, I know this and have called you anyway. Just stay back, watch my work, and be in awe at what the LORD brings about through his servant. And remember my words always, for they will direct you while you wait for me:”

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Hymn #92 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.

***Dismissal**
(Rev. Joseph Svancara)
Please leave in silence

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