

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052  
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



**We Worship, We Love, We Serve  
– No Matter What!**

**April 17, 2025  
Maundy Thursday  
7pm**

# We Worship

***Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!***

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation  
of the Penn NE Conference United Church of Christ!  
You are WELCOME HERE!*

***Our Offering*** is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts of praise and gratitude to God, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.

*Tonight, the celebration of the Easter Triduum begins.  
This is the eve of the passion of Jesus – the night that the Passover lamb was presented in the temple, the night that the Jewish people gathered to celebrate the Passover of their freedom, the night Jesus last gathered with his closest friends before his own passion.*

*On this night, known as Maundy Thursday, Jesus gave his disciples a new and great commandment, to love one another as He loved us. He showed his friends the true meaning of this commandment, the ultimate sign of His humility and love for them, when he knelt to wash their feet. He then demonstrated the full meaning of His life and death, by giving us the gift of the Holy Eucharist, as he broke the bread, symbolic of his body, and drank the wine, symbolic of His blood with them. Yet, on this very night, it would be in the Garden of Gethsemane, that Jesus wept alone as His apostles slept.*

*Tonight is not merely a remembrance of things done, it is an actual celebration, a making of those events present here and now.*

***\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand***

**Chimes**

**Welcome**

Rev. Steven Davis

**\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**One:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you!

## Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

*This One Table*

Joel Raney

*Gathered round this table, the sinners and the meek are praying their confessions, too penitent to speak. Forgiveness for transgressions against both God and man, imparted to believers by the Savior's hand.*

*Hearts are lying open, scars have been revealed. Souls which once were broken, are waiting to be healed. Come all to his table, upon his breast recline. Celebrate his sacred passion as you sit and dine.*

*The center of this table is fashioned with his grace, portioned freely out to all who gather in this place. Take and drink God's mercy provided from above. Satisfy your hunger; feast upon his love.*

*Hearts are lying open, scars have been revealed. Souls which once were broken, are waiting to be healed. Come all to his table, upon his breast recline. Celebrate his sacred passion as you sit and dine.*

### **\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**One:** It was a night of hope as they gathered so long ago. Grace was offered without blemish as they left behind the years of loneliness, grief, and bullying, daring to follow you into a future known only to you.

**All:** **Lord who kneels to serve us, as you tried to ready your friends for all that would happen, in humility, you washed their feet so they might follow you down the dusty road of death. In love, you transformed a simple meal into moments of grace and comfort.**

**One:** Here, is the basin,

**All:** **Which gives us the living water which washes away our fears and foolishness.**

**One:** Here, is the towel,

**All:** **Which allows us to wipe the tears of all who weep from grief, oppression, and loneliness.**

**One:** Here, we find bread, bread which, though broken and dropping crumbs,

**All:** **Feeds us with hope, filling us with strength to serve our sisters and brothers.**

**One:** Here, we are offered the cup,

**All:** **Which causes us to thirst for justice.**

One: On this night, with these people, with these symbols and gifts,


All: **May we dare to follow, hesitantly and hopefully, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**


*As We Gather at Your Table*

All Verses

**As We Gather at Your Table**




1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, As we  
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness In the  
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon Oth - er



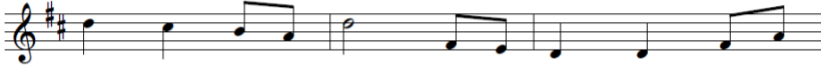
lis - ten to your Word, Help us know, O God, your  
sac - ra - ment of life; Send us forth to love and  
guests to share that feast Where tri - um - phant Love will



pres - ence: Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish  
serve you, Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us,  
wel - come Those who had been last and least. There no



us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we  
Christ, your great com - pas - sion To for -  
more will en - vy blind us Nor will



claim it as our own; Teach us through this ho - ly  
give as you for - gave; May we still be - hold your  
pride our peace de - stroy, As we join with saints and



ban - quet How to make Love's vic - tory known.  
im - age In the world you died to save.  
an - gels To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. b.1944; © 1989, Hope Publishing Co.  
Tune: NETTLETON, 8 7 8 7 D; Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Pt. II, 1813

## Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

The United Church of Canada Creed

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.**

**We in believe in God:**

**Who has created and is creating,**

**Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**

**To reconcile and make new,**

**Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God,**

**We are called to be the church:**

**To celebrate God's presence,**

**To love and serve others,**

**To seek justice and resist evil,**

**To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**Our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God, Amen.**

## Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

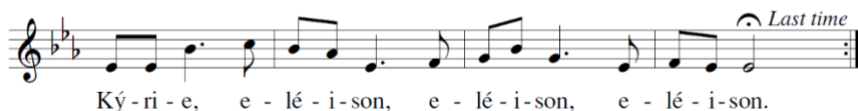
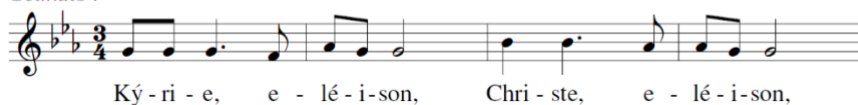
**One:** Christ loved us to the end. There was betrayal in our heart,  
yet Jesus loved us. He knew we would deny him, yet Christ  
forgave us. Let us now bring our prayers for forgiveness to  
the Lord, as we pray in silence.

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

*First Sung by Choir, then All:*

## Kyrie

Ostinato I



*(translation: Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy, have mercy, have mercy.)*

**Prayer of Confession**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**All: Gracious Jesus, our loving Redeemer, forgive us, we pray.  
Renew our healing convictions. Restore our call to service.  
Rekindle our flame for justice, that we may once again  
become your people of peace.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

**One: Receive the good news. The One who created us has called us.  
There is now no condemnation. No shame at the table of God.  
Only the love that makes us whole again. Only the love we  
offer others. In God’s name, we are forgiven.**

**All: May we bring hope where despair resides. May we be  
servants to those who are broken. May we show love as  
selflessly as we are loved by Jesus Christ, our Lord and  
Savior, who has forgiven us of our sins. Amen.**

**Hymn**

*We Glory in the Cross of Christ*  
All Verses

**WE GLORY IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST**

Based on the Entrance Antiphon for Holy Thursday

CHRISTIAN LOVE  
Paul Benoit, OSB, 1893–1979  
Words and Arr. Joreen Kelly



1. We glo - ry in the cross of Christ that  
2. We jour - ney to the cross of Christ, our  
3. We gath - er at the cross of Christ, the  
4. We bow be - fore the cross of Christ with  
bore God's on - ly Son, a ser - vant who sur -  
life and sav - ing grace. Christ by his death re -  
staff of hope and light: the em - blem of e -  
grate - ful hearts of praise, for, by Christ's suf - fer -  
ren - dered all, that all may be made one.  
deemed the world, each per - son, land, and place.  
ter - nal love and pledge of end - less life.  
ing and death, we tri - umph o'er the grave!

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## **\*Scripture Reading**

*John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

Scripture Reader: Barbara Menges

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And 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 supper, 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 reclined again, 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.

Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little

longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

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."

**One:** The word of God for the people of God.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Steve Davis

**If God Is Love:  
Finding a Faith that Makes Us Better Humans  
"A Title or a Towel?"**

**Anthem**

*Remember, Remember Me*  
Jack Schrader

*This bread is my body, broken for you; this cup is my life blood poured out for you. Each time when you drink it, each time you partake, remember, remember me.*

*This bread is my body, broken for you, this cup is my life blood poured out for you. Each time when you drink it, each time you partake, remember, remember me.*

*Remember, remember my love for you: the sacrifice I willingly made. Remember what I taught you, remember my grace, Remember, remember me.*

*This bread is my body, broken for you. This cup is my life blood, poured out for you. Each time when you drink it, each time you partake, remember, remember me, remember me.*

# We Love

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer Litany**

*Inspired by Matthew 6: 9-13, Luke 11:2-4*

**One:** Mystery beyond our knowing, close to us as our breathing,  
in humble awe we pray.

**All:** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.**



One: We pray for your vision of justice and mercy to be made real in our world even now.

**All: Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven**

One: We pray for your vision of enough; enough sustenance, enough warmth, enough healing for all your children.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread.**

One: We pray for the grace to let go of that which is death dealing as we embrace your vision for life, that we might follow you safely through the obstacle course.

**All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

One: Giving thanks for presence that defies definition in this life and beyond.

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and forever. Amen**

### **Presenting Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God**



*Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry of St. John's UCC!*

**\*Doxology** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross-Verse 4*  
**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
 That were an offering far too small;  
 Love so amazing, so divine,  
 Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Liturgist: Regi Mohr  
**All: Merciful God, may these gifts be used to lift the lowly, to bind the broken, and to carry your love across every barrier. Empower us to stand together in service and love, to follow the path of Christ, who leads us to freedom and a new home in you. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Hand Washing and Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church  
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2025..*

***We are an Inclusive Community!***

***In the United Church of Christ, we observe an “Open Communion.”***

***ALL persons are welcome to receive  
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.***

***In The UCC, ALL means ALL!***

### Invitation to Handwashing

**One:** Eternal Father, blessed is our brother Jesus, who on that night before Passover, rose from the Supper, laid aside his garments, took a towel, poured water, and washed his disciples’ feet, saying to them: “If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

**All:** Come now, mighty Spirit of God, wash us and make us one body in Christ, that as we are bound together in this act of love, we may no longer be in bondage to the principalities and powers that enslave creation, but may know your liberating peace, like nothing the world can give. Amen.

### The Invitation to Receive

**One:** The parade is in the past, the hosannas have hushed, and Jesus has retreated to an upper room to quietly dine with his disciples.

**All:** We have been invited to the table, to share in the mystery of broken bread, a cup of wine and of feet humbly washed, challenging us to eat, drink and remember together, and most importantly, to love and serve one another just as Jesus loves and serves us.

**One:** We have been invited to the table to see Judas get up from his seat and walk out the door, where Peter will soon deny Jesus and the others all flee in the night, challenging us to look into our hearts, and glimpse the signs of our own acts of betrayal and denial.

**All: May we take our place at this table, to be cleansed and fed, where we sense our brokenness and experience God's grace all at once.**

## **Words of Institution and Consecration**

### **We Are Cleansed and Share the Meal**

*Please come forward using the center aisle and have your hands washed, as we remember Jesus washing the feet of his chosen twelve disciples. Then please receive the elements of bread and wine and return to your pew using the side aisles.*

### **Music During Communion**

*Deus Ibi Est*

Gregg Schockman

Soloists: Corrina Schneck and Patrick Sandt

*\*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

*(translation: Where Charity and love prevail, God is There)*

*Where true charity and love are found, God is always there.*

*When we feed the poor, Deus ibi est. When we offer drink, Deus ibi est. When we tend the sick, show our care, God is always there.*

*When we greet the guest, Deus ibi est. When we lend a hand, Deus ibi est. When we work for peace, stand for right, God is always there.*

*When we gather here, deus ibi est. When we offer prayer, Deus ibi est. When we eat this bread, drink this cup, God is always there.*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Davis

**All: We have come to the table, imperfect and flawed. Yet You, in Christ, have received us and offer to us healing and hope. Forgive our waywardness. Heal our brokenness. Challenge us to live lives of faithfulness and discipleship. Amen.**

# We Serve

## Stripping of the Altar

Rev. Davis

*After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in our Lord's earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize his suffering and death.*

*Tonight, as we bring our service to a close, we will remove the symbols of our faith and proclamation of the gospel in the Stripping of the Altar. This is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday.*

## Scripture Reading

*Matthew 26:36-46*

Scripture Reader: Dewey Yeatts

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

## Hymn

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

*hymn found on page 13 of the bulletin*

## Instrumental Verse of Go to Dark Gethsemane

One: We extinguish our altar candles and remove them, in addition to the decorations surrounding our altar and chancel. Lights are dimmed along the way to symbolize the light of Christ as he prepares to pray in the Garden, leading to his passion.

### **Verse 1 of Go to Dark Gethsemane**

One: Our offerings represent one way of loving and serving God. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

### **Instrumental Verse of Go to Dark Gethsemane**

One: Jesus' offered body and his shed blood have been given to us in the form of bread and wine and juice in this Holy Mystery. As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the vessels of this sacrament.

### **Verse 2 of Go to Dark Gethsemane**

One: Our altar and communion table are where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings are made of fine linen; material appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar and table are stripped of their coverings.

### **Instrumental of Go to Dark Gethsemane**

One: The remaining consecrated bread and wine represent Christ's body. They are carried to the rear of the sanctuary and veiled to represent his lying in the tomb.

### **Verse 3 of Go to Dark Gethsemane**

## **Good Friday & Easter Reminders**

### **\*The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

### **Choir Postlude**

*Gethsemane Prayer*

R. Kevin Boesiger

*Father, my Father, please let this cup pass over me. Father, O, take this cup from me. But not my will, but not my will, not my will but Yours be done.*

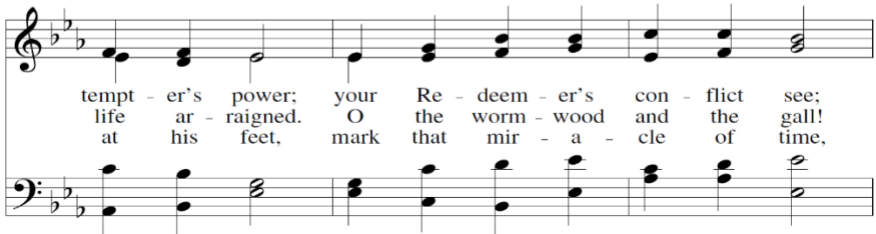
*Father, my Father, please let this cup pass over me.. O, my Father, please take this cup from me. But not my will, but not my will, not my will but Yours be done. O, not my will, not my will, but Your will be done.*

# Go to Dark Gethsemane

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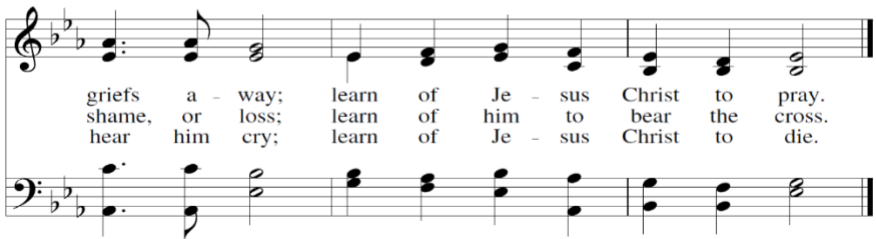
1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, you that feel the  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of  
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing



tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;  
 life ar - rained. O the worm - er's wood and the gall!  
 at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,



watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his  
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete: "It is fin - ished!"



griefs a - way; learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 shame, or loss; learn of him to bear cross.  
 hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

WORDS: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.  
 MUSIC: Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

REDHEAD  
 7.7.7.7.7.

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## **Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross—12pm  
Community Gathering by Area UCCs  
St. John's UCC Fullerton

Tenebrae, Service of Darkness—7pm

## **Easter Sunday—9:30am**

Resurrection Celebration  
with flowering the cross and communion

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Liturgist – Regina Mohr

Scripture Readers – Barbara Menges  
and Dewey Yeatts

Ushers – Kathy Roth, Wendy Fox

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

## OUR STAFF

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