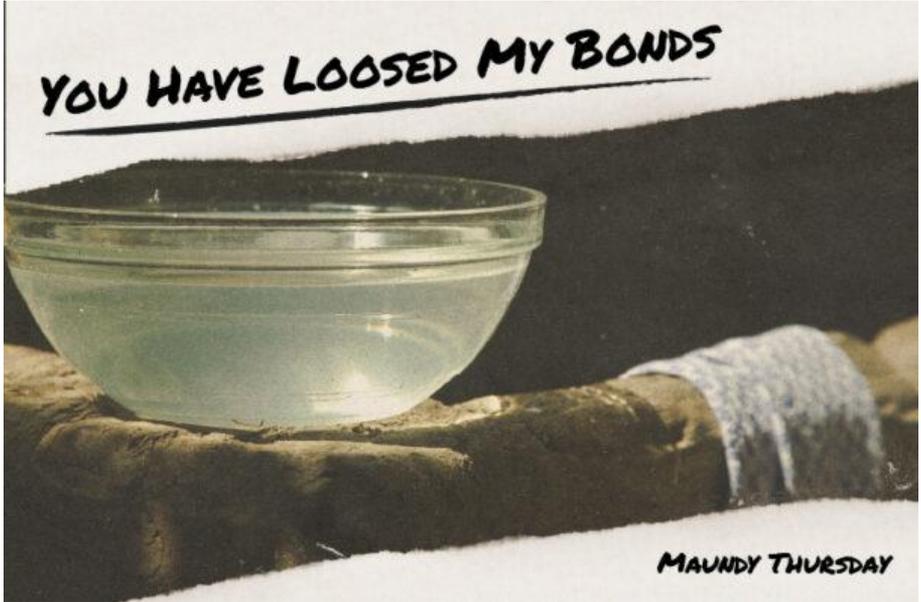


St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

April 2nd, 2026

Maundy Thursday
7pm

We Worship, We Love, We Serve
- No Matter What!

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation
of the Keystone Conference of the 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.

The Triduum:

*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, a mandate, 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 Communion, the 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 a celebration,
a remaking of those events present here and now.*

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

Chimes

Lenten Playlist (congregation selection)
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“Plowshare Prayer”
by Spencer LaJoye

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

The Holy Feast
Mary McDonald

In the upper room, gathered with the Lord, twelve disciples at the feast, all in one accord. Jesus took the bread, and He took the wine. Giving thanks, He spoke these words divine: "This is my body, which is broken for you. Take, eat in remembrance of me. And this is my blood which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

As we gather here at your table Lord, all are welcome. Come and dine here in one accord. We will take the bread. We will drink the wine. Giving thanks, we speak these words divine: "This is my body, which is broken for you. Take, eat in remembrance of me. And this is my blood which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: On this night, we gather at the table where Jesus shared bread and cup with his friends.

All: We come to remember love made tangible, grace poured out, and promises given.

One: On this night, Jesus knelt to serve, washing the feet of those he loved.

All: Teach us humility, O Christ, that we may serve one another with compassion.

One: On this night, Jesus gave a new commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us.

All: Write this commandment on our hearts, that love may guide all we say and do.

One: On this night, bread was broken and the cup was shared, signs of a covenant rooted in grace.

All: We come hungry for mercy, thirsty for justice, ready to receive the gift of your presence.

One: On this night, shadows begin to gather, and the way of the cross draws near.

All: Yet we remain with you, O Christ, trusting in love that will not let us go.

One: Come, let us worship with grateful hearts and willing spirits, remembering Christ's love poured out for the world.

All: We worship you, O Christ, and commit ourselves anew to the way of love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

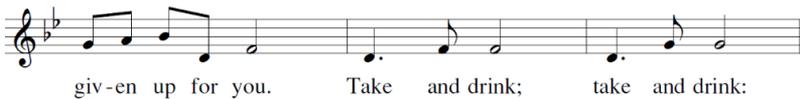
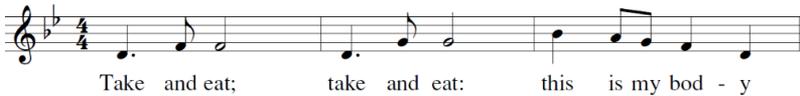
Take and Eat

Soloist: Julie Mertus

Please join in singing the refrain when gestured to do so

Take and Eat

Refrain



Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

I believe in Jesus Christ, who on the night before he died, gathered his friends to share a final meal.

I believe he is the Servant King, who took the form of a slave, washed feet, and commanded us to love one another just as he has loved us.

I believe in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup, a new covenant established to strengthen us for service and sacrifice.

I believe that by serving our neighbors in humility, we embody the *mandate* and reveal the love of God to the world.

I believe that even in the face of betrayal and darkness, Christ calls us to abide in his love and to be one, just as he and the Father are one. 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)

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

All: Forgive us, Holy One, and have mercy on us.

As you have opened your heart for us, may we open ours in service to others.

As you have given your life for us, may we offer ours to bring healing to the world.

As you have called us together around your Table, may we go forth to feed a world hungry, not only for food, but for that Spirit which brings peace and reconciliation.

This we pray as servants of Jesus Christ, who came to serve us in life, in death, in resurrection hope. Amen.

Sung Response

**Translation: Lord, have Mercy
found on page 5*

Eleison, Have Mercy

Lenten Call to Confession

Joel Raney

$\text{♩} = 60$ $\frac{4}{4}$ Choir Only

Ky-rie e - le - i-son Ky-rie e - le - i-son Ky-rie e -

10 ALL
-le - i-son Have mer - cy, I pray Ky - ri - e e - le - i-son

15
Ky-rie e - le - i-son Ky-rie e - le - i-son Have mer - cy, have

20
mer - cy, I pray.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: On this holiest of nights, we have received the good news: God has come in Christ Jesus, to fill us with hope and peace, to bathe us in grace and mercy.

All: **In remembrance, we go forth: to bring hope where despair resides; to be servants to those who are broken; to love as selflessly as we are loved by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Hymn

We Glory in the Cross of Christ

All Verses

found on page 6

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

Reader: Joy Gravely

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19

I love the LORD because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I
live.

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!

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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

Steadfast Love: You Have Loosed My Bonds

Anthem

Love Filled the Cup

Pepper Choplin

*Love filled the cup; Love broke the bread, poured out and broken for you.
Come, take the cup; Come, take the bread, for they are poured out and
broken for you.*

*Love filled the cup; Love broke the bread, poured out and broken for you.
Come, take the cup; Come, take the bread, poured out and broken for you.*

*Father, I am Your Son; now come and make them one, one through love, so
that the world will see their love and unity, and all will know, their lives will
show, they'll show that love fills the cup; Love breaks the bread, poured out
and broken for you.*

*Come, take the cup; Come, take the bread, poured out and broken for you.
Love fills the cup, Love breaks the bread, poured out and broken for you.*

We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis &

(Requests shared from the entry table basket)

Samantha Kistler

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**

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 Ceremony

Rev. Davis

Serve one another by using the hand wipes to "wash" your neighbor's hands.

One: 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 such as the world cannot give. Amen.

Song During Ritual

Deus Ibi Est

by Gregg Schockman
Soloists: Corrina and Jeffrey Purdon

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

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

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 2026

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!

The Invitation to Receive

Rev. Davis and
Samantha Kistler

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In the beginning, you hovered over the waters and poured out your love over the formless void, turning chaos into life.

All: You formed us in your image and provided for us from the fruit of creation. When we turned away, and our love failed, your steadfast love never failed. You set the

Israelites free and brought them through the waters. When they doubted and complained, you provided manna from heaven and water from a rock. Even when we betrayed and broke covenant with you, we were never abandoned by you.

One: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts.
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
 Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. When we turned away from you and abused your gifts, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Divine Love poured out in human form,

All: Christ fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, and taught us how to love by incarnating love among us.

One: On the evening in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

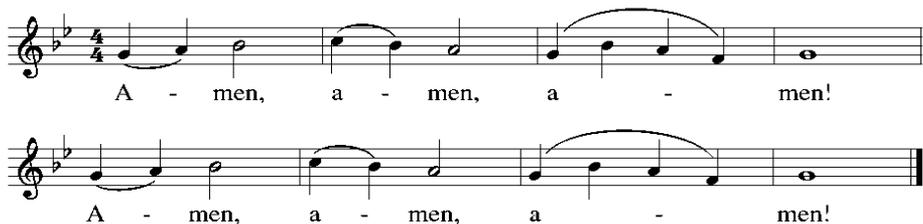
Sung Response

Christ has died, Christ has risen,
Christ will come again. Christ has died,
rit.
Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: As Christ came to show us how to love one another, we ask you now to pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine.

All: **Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed and made new. For it is by this love that everyone will know we are his disciples. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

One: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.



Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

Sharing of the Meal

Please come forward to receive the elements of bread and wine using the middle aisle and return to your pew using the side aisles.

One: The body of Christ given for us.

All: Amen

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us

All: Amen

Music During Communion: # 705 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Samantha Kistler

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

Reader: Samantha Kistler

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.”

Reader: On this night we have heard again the commandment of love. We have broken bread and shared the cup. Now we follow Jesus from the table to the garden, from fellowship into abandonment. As the sanctuary is stripped, we remember how Christ was stripped of honor, stripped of dignity, and left alone.

Hymn: WR # 272

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Instrumental Verse of Go to Dark Gethsemane

Reader: “After receiving the piece of bread, Judas immediately went out. And it was night.” We extinguish our altar candles and remove them, in addition to the decorations surrounding our altar and chancel.

Verse 1 of Go to Dark Gethsemane

Reader: “Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor.” 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

Reader: “You will all become deserters because of me this night.” 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

Reader: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 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

Reader: "He had no form or majesty that we should look at him." 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

***The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

"So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?"

Remain here. Watch. Wait.

Choir Postlude

Father, Please
Joel Raney

Deep in anguish and afraid, feeling helpless and betrayed, on his knees, the Savior prayed, "Father, please!" Underneath a darkened sky, came a loud and desperate cry, "Does Messiah have to die? Father, please!"

Please let this cup pass from me, Father, hear my urgent plea! Let this cup pass from me, Father, please!"

As the end was drawing near, filled with hopelessness and fear, praying God would interfere, "Father, please!" In a loud despairing cry Jesus pleaded, "Father why does Messiah have to die? Father, please!"

Please let this cup pass from me, Father, hear my urgent plea! Let this cup pass from me. Father, please!"

**Join us as we continue our journey towards the cross and resurrection
of our Lord.**

Good Friday

Tenebrae, Service of Shadows — 7pm
Combined Worship with St. John's UCC Mickleys

Easter Sunday — 9:30am

Resurrection Celebration
with flowering the cross and holy communion