

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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

**March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday
7pm**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We are a place where love can grow!

*As the music begins, please find your place and
quietly center your spirit for our worship of God together.*

***Our Offering** is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts to God of praise and gratitude, 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.*

*** 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

If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments

Lloyd Larson

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: We are Jesus' disciples, following him even as he moves toward the cross.

All: Even as he wraps a towel around his waist. Even as he kneels to wash the feet of his friends.

One: We are Jesus' disciples, longing to be faithful even as the night grows dark.

All: Even as betrayers loom. Even as the powers that oppose the way of Christ press in around us.

One: We are Jesus' disciples, struggling to love others even as Jesus loved us.

All: We are Jesus' disciples, gathered here to worship God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

I Come with Joy
Verses 1, 3 and 5

I Come with Joy

1. I come with joy, a child of God, For -
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, Each
4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, Un -
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound By

giv - en, loved, and free, The life of Je - sus
find, as all are fed, The new com - mu - ni -
proud di - vi - sion ends. The love that made us,
seen, but al - ways near, Is in such friend - ship
all that God has done, We'll go with joy, to

to re - call, In love laid down for me.
ty of love In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
makes us one, And stran - gers now are friends.
bet - ter known, A - live a - mong us here.
give the world The love that makes us one.

Text: Brian Wren, b.1936, © 1971, 1995, Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: LAND OF REST, CM; American; harm. by Annabel M. Buchanan, 1888-1983

*Gathering Prayer

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: Gracious God, we give you thanks this night for the privilege of gathering to remember, to celebrate, and to share. We give you thanks for the journey we have been on with you—from manger to Temple, from Egypt to Galilee, from darkness to light.

All: Tonight, we feast, as you did on a night like this so long ago, remembering your promises, your mighty deeds, your rescue of your people, your saving grace. As we share this meal tonight, make us mindful of those who are hungry. As we celebrate together, make us mindful of those who sorrow and those who are alone. As we remember once

again all you have done and all that you are, form us once again into your people.

One: May all who hunger come to rejoice in the feast of your kingdom. Let all the human family sit at your table, drink the wine of deliverance, and eat the bread of freedom.

All: **We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who at His last meal with His disciples gave them – and us – a new commandment: "Love one another. Just as I have loved you." By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

All: **Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak, when we have failed to serve as Jesus served: we ask for forgiveness. When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us: we ask for forgiveness. When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied Him by our actions: we ask for forgiveness. Merciful God, empower us by Your Spirit to be steady and true to You in every time of trial.**

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Regi Mohr

One: 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."

All: **The good news, therefore, is this: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

Hymn

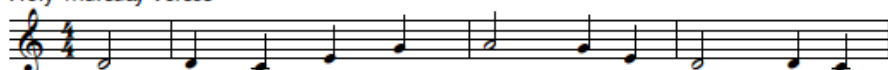
What Wondrous Love is This

Verses 1, 2, and 3

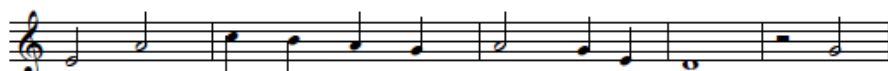
found on page 4 of the bulletin.

Triduum Hymn: Wondrous Love

Holy Thursday Verses



1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2. The night be - fore the end of his life, of his
 3. "The ones who share this feast in my name, in my
 4. As ser - vant, then, he knelt at their feet, at their
 5. "What I have done for you in my love, in my
 6. They sang a hymn of praise un - to you, un - to



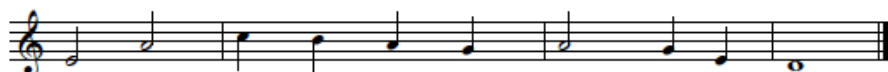
soul? What won-drous love is this, O my soul? What
 life, The night be - fore the end of his life; The
 name, The ones who share this feast in my name; The
 feet, As ser - vant, then, he knelt at their feet; As
 love, What I have done for you in my love; What
 you, They sang a hymn of praise un - to you; They



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 night be - fore the end my Lord sat with his
 ones who share this feast shall know their joy in -
 ser - vant, then, he knelt, a ser - vant's towel for
 I have done for you, so you are called to
 sang a hymn of praise, their hearts and voic - es



bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 friends, And of - fered them the meal of his death and his
 creased, The reign of grace and peace in my name, in my
 belt, He showed the love he felt at their feet, at their
 do, To be a ser - vant true in your love, in your
 raised, Then he went to his death— un - to you, un - to



soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?
 life, He of - fered them a share in his life.
 name, The reign of grace and peace in my name."
 feet, He showed the love he felt at their feet.
 love, To be a ser - vant true in your love."
 you, Then he went to his death— un - to you.

Text: St. 1, Alexander Means, 1801-1853; remainder, Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: WONDROUS LOVE, 12 9 12 12 9, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; acc. by Marty Haugen, b.1950

***Scripture Reading**

John 19: 31-37

Scripture Reader: Tom Moyer

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

He Did This for You!

“I Have Redeemed You and I Will Keep You”

Anthem

Remember Me

Deborah Govenor

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 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 in
heaven**

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

All: Give us today 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**

Offering 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: God of abundance in every form, through these gifts
and the actions of our lives, may all that we share
bring the world to your heart of grace and love. Amen.**

Please be seated.

“Footwashing” as Ritual of Handwashing

*Serve one another by using the hand wipes
to “wash” your neighbor’s hands.*

Song during Ritual

As I Have Done for You
Dan Schutte

Soloist: Colleen Kulhamer

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 2024.*

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

One: It would not have been God's table if they hadn't all been gathered around it:

All: The betrayer and the friend, the power-hungry and the justice seeker, the faithful and the fickle.

One: When Jesus poured the wine, and the bread was broken;

All: When everyone could eat - the outcast and the beloved, the arrogant and the gracious, the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by - the table became a foretaste of love made real and of a world made whole.

One: Your company at the table will include the betrayer and the beloved, the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by, it would not be God's table without them.

All: And the promise is that when we are together, when you tell the story and give the blessing when you break the bread and pour the wine you will discover a foretaste of love made real and of a world made whole.

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Meal

The elements will be passed in the pew, and we will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup passed and all drink together.

Music while the elements of bread are shared.

Please join in singing the refrain

One Bread We Bless and Share

found on page 8 of the bulletin.

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

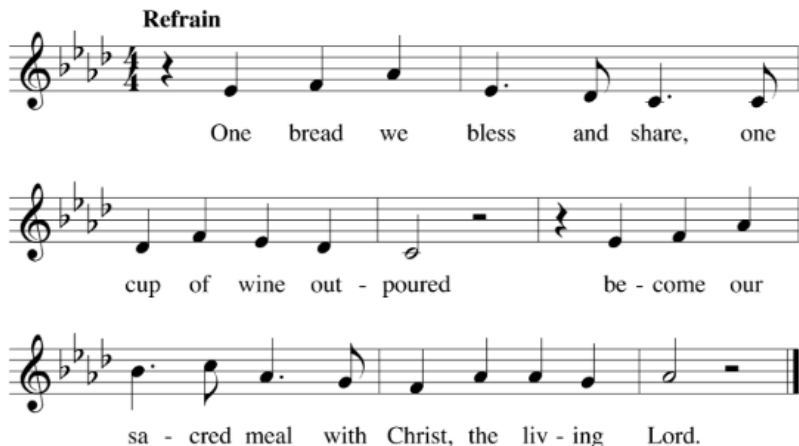
All: Amen

ONE BREAD WE BLESS AND SHARE

Inspired by Didache 9

Words and Music by
Ricky Manalo

Refrain



One bread we bless and share, one
cup of wine out - poured be - come our
sa - cred meal with Christ, the liv - ing Lord.

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Music while the elements of wine are shared.

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

All: Amen

Music while the elements are brought to the altar.

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.

Matthew 26: 36-46

Scripture Reader: Tom Moyer

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."

One: We extinguish our altar candles and remove them. Lights are dimmed along the way to symbolize the light of Christ as he prepares to pray in the Garden, leading to his passion. **(Choir Sung Response)**

Our offerings represent one way of loving God and serving God in us in sending the Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings. **(Choir Sung Response)**

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. **(Choir Sung Response)**

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. **(Choir Sung Response)**

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. **(Choir Sung Response)**

***Good Friday & Easter Reminders and The Benediction**

Rev. Davis

Good Friday 11-11:50am Come & Go "Stations of the Cross"

Good Friday 12-1pm Community Gathering by Area UCCs
St. John's UCC, Mickleys

Good Friday 7pm

Service of Darkness

Easter Sunday 9:30am

Resurrection Celebration

with flowering the cross and communion

Choir Postlude

Abba

Craig Courtney

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Serving in Worship Leadership

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Liturgist – Regina Mohr

Scripture Reader – Tom Moyer

Ushers – Kathy Roth, Wendy Fox

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Wayne Lichtenwalner, Michelle Gutekunst, DonnaLee Yeatts

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