



**Maundy Thursday Service
United Church on the Green and
Center Church on the Green
April 2, 2026
7:00PM**

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Maundy Thursday A

We Gather as Church

PRELUDE

Anne Maria Lim, *organ*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

Peace be with you... And also with you...

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere

One: Lord Jesus, preaching good tidings to the people,
proclaiming release to captives, setting at liberty those who are bound:

Many: We adore you.

One: Lord Jesus, friend of the outcast and the poor, feeder of the
hungry, healer of the sick:

Many: We adore you.

One: Lord Jesus, denouncing the oppressor, exposing the hypocrite,
overcoming evil with good:

Many: We adore you.

One: Lord Jesus, pattern of gentleness, teacher of holiness, prophet of
the kingdom:

Many: We adore you.

One: Lord Jesus, dying to save us from our sin, rising to give us eternal
life, ascending to prepare our heavenly home:

Many: We adore you.

OPENING HYMN #192

My Song Is Love Unknown RHOSYMEDRE

1. My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2. God gave this bless - ed Son, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3. With palms they strew his way and sweet - est prais - es sang.
 4. In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
 5. Here might I stay and sing, one song my heart out - pours:

love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but peo - ple scorned and none the longed - for Christ would know.
 Ho - san - nas and glad psalms through streets and mar - kets rang.
 in death no friend - ly tomb but what a strang - er gave.
 nev - er was death's deep sting, nev - er was love like yours.

O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home; but mine the tomb where -
 This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend.
 thirst and cry; and for his death they thirst and cry.
 in he lay, but mine the tomb where - in he lay.
 glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend.

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray Jr.

Lord, your love is broken open among cheering crowds and traitor's coins, deserting friends and hands washed clean, the mockery of power and the baying mob: as we follow your way of passion, give us the faith to bring our hearts to the foot of the cross and the door of the guarded tomb that they might be opened, astonished and healed; through Jesus Christ, who carries the weight of the world. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Like as the Hart

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks
so longeth my soul after thee, O God
My soul is athirst for the living God
yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear
before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me
Where, where is now thy God?

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Shadow of Betrayal: Luke 22:1-6

Gordon Hall

The Shadow of Prediction: John 13: 31-38

Freddie Swindal-Endres

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit: Mark 14:32-42

Donna Hall

HYMN #191

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

LONESOME VALLEY

1. Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley, he had to
 2. We must walk this lone - some val - ley, we have to
 3. You must go and stand your tri - al, you have to

walk it by him - self; O, no - bod - y else could walk it
 walk it by our - selves; O, no - bod - y else can walk it
 stand it by your - self, O, no - bod - y else can stand it

for him, he had to walk it by him - self.
 for us, we have to walk it by our - selves.
 for you, you have to stand it by your - self.

The Shadow of Betrayal: Luke 22:47-54a

Katie Bauer

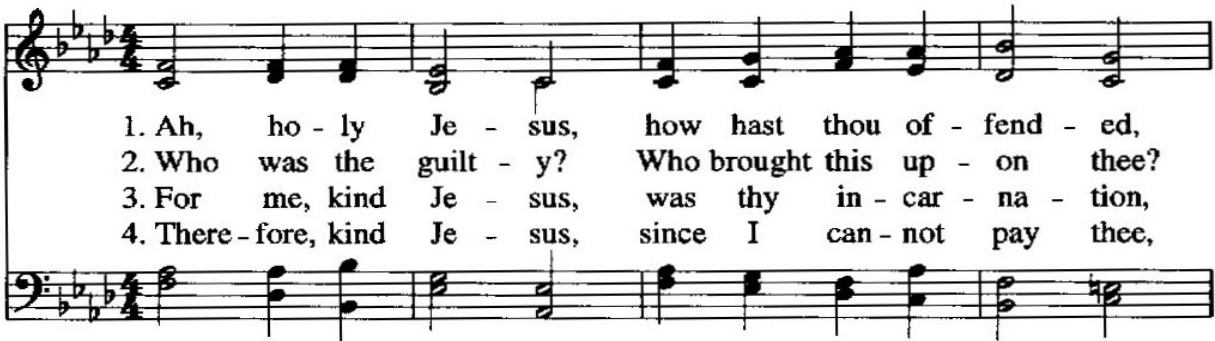
The Shadow of Denial: Matthew 26:69-75

Logan Flaxman

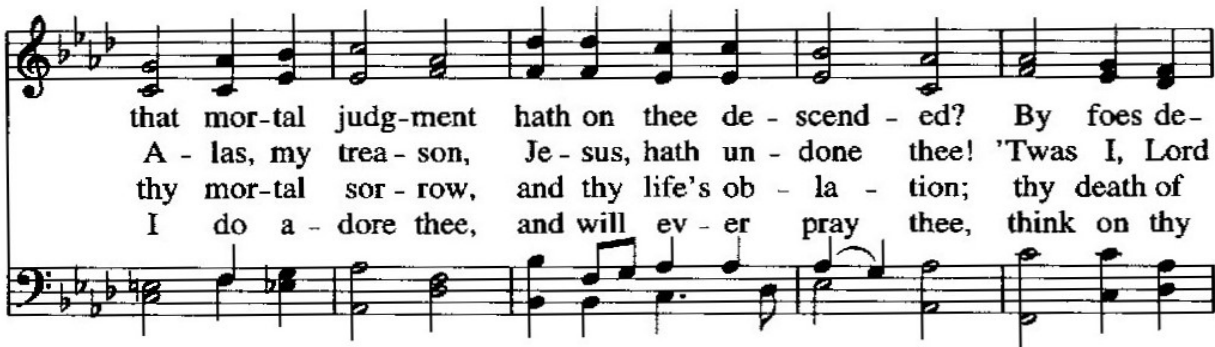
HYMN #186

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU



1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
2. Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
3. For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion,
4. There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,



that mor - tal judg - ment hath on thee de - scend - ed? By foes de -
A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee! 'Twas I, Lord
thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of
I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy



rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

The Shadow of Crucifixion: Mark 15:22-32

Jon Blue

HYMN #187

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain;
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thy on - ly crown,
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

how art thou pale with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and, should I faint - ing be,

How does that vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn!
 look on me with thy fa - vor, vouch - safe to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love to thee!

The Shadow of Death: Matthew 27:45-54

Darnell Ray

SILENCE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Maurice Duruflé

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other
with a sincere heart. Amen.

THE INVITATION

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere

THE THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere

Thus, gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

Our Father/Mother/Creator/God, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 #311

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

1. Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
2. Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;
3. Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;
Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,

O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

THE INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

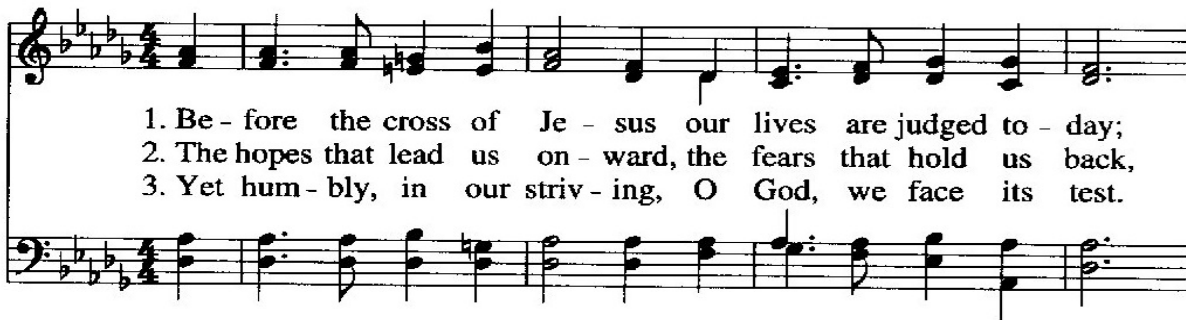
Rev. Cleere and Rev. Ray

Congregation will come forward to receive elements and return to their seats holding the bread and wine. We will eat and drink together once everyone is served.

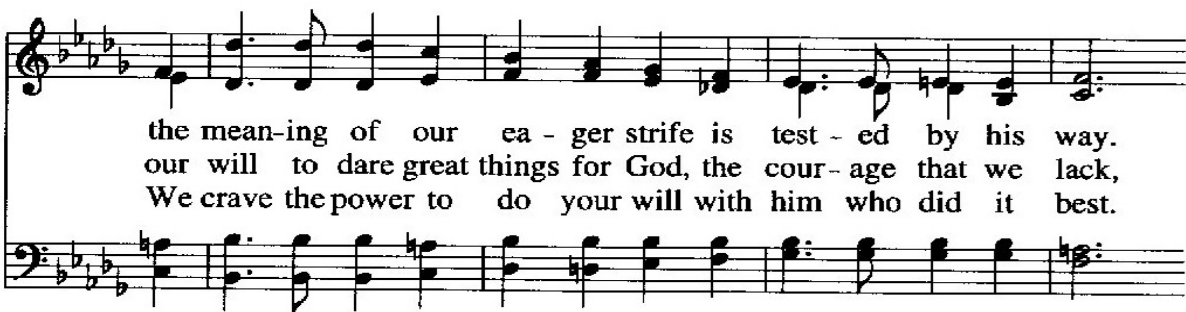
CLOSING HYMN #188

Before the Cross of Jesus

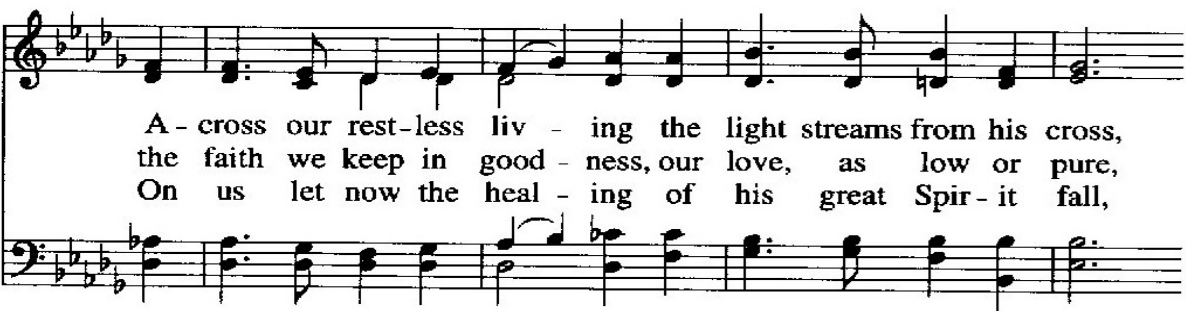
ST. CHRISTOPHER



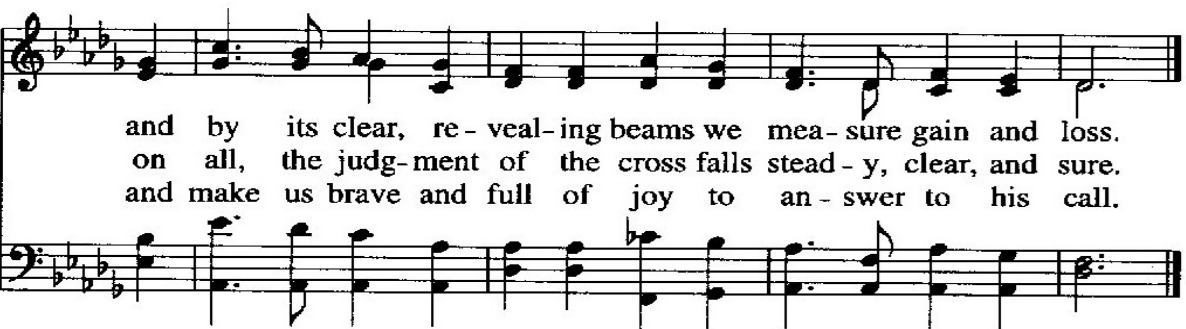
1. Be - fore the cross of Je - sus our lives are judged to - day;
2. The hopes that lead us on - ward, the fears that hold us back,
3. Yet hum - bly, in our striv - ing, O God, we face its test.



the mean - ing of our ea - ger strife is test - ed by his way.
our will to dare great things for God, the cour - age that we lack,
We crave the power to do your will with him who did it best.



A - cross our rest - less liv - ing the light streams from his cross,
the faith we keep in good - ness, our love, as low or pure,
On us let now the heal - ing of his great Spir - it fall,



and by its clear, re - veal - ing beams we mea - sure gain and loss.
on all, the judg - ment of the cross falls stead - y, clear, and sure.
and make us brave and full of joy to an - swer to his call.

CLOSING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

POSTLUDE

Were You There?
Anne Maria Lim, *organ*

Improvisation

CONCLUSION WITH BENEDICTION

Rev. Cleere and Rev. Ray

Go in peace, into the darkness of the night to await the dawn. Amen.

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Senior Pastor, United Church
Minister, Center Church
Directors of Music**

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.
Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere
Caesar Storlazzi, United
Anne Maria Lim, Center

The Combined Choir of Center and United Churches:

Center Church Singers:

Evan Stein, Spencer Wilson, Leslee Wood,
and Larry Zukof

United Church Singers:

Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Delaney Fox, Grecia Hernandez Hontz,
Thomas Hernandez Hontz, Tess Klibanoff, Christopher Leimgruber, Julia
Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, and Mary Scanlon

HOST CHURCHES

Center Church on the Green, UCC

meeting house: center of the New Haven Green
parish house office: Temple between Wall & Elm

311 Temple Street

New Haven, CT 06511

Tel 203-787-0121

www.centerchurchoonthegreen.org

www.facebook.com/centerchurchoonthegreen

United Church on the Green, UCC

meeting house: corner of Temple & Elm
parish house office: corner of Temple & Wall

323 Temple Street

New Haven, CT 06511

203-787-4195

www.unitednewhaven.org

www.facebook.com/unitednewhaven



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST