



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

April 6, 2023

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7:30pm

Maundy Thursday is the Christian holy day on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin, *mandatum*, which means commandment or mandate. We recall the institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper. We remember Jesus’ call to our most visible sign of discipleship — loving one another as Christ loves us.

SONG TO PREPARE

“Thee I Cherish”

Jubilation! Ringers

arr. Paul A. McKlveen

Kathy Bures, director

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1:1–5a, John 1:1–5

When God began to create the heavens and the earth — the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn’t extinguish the light.

*SONG TO PRAISE

“Simple Kingdom”

ALL

as recorded by Bryan & Katie Torwalt

**Your Kingdom is simple, as simple as love. You welcomed the children, You stopped for the one.
We want to see people the way Jesus does. Your kingdom is simple, Lord, teach it to us.**

**Your kingdom is humble, as humble as death. His King is a savior who gave His last breath,
so may we die daily, our pride laid to rest. His kingdom is humble and the broken are blessed.**

**Hallelujah, hallowed be Your name, may we live and breathe Your praise.
Hallelujah, let all creation say, “Oh, the King of heaven reigns.” (Repeat)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak ...
when we have failed to serve as Jesus served;
forgive us.**

**When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us;
forgive us.**

**When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with
our lips and then denied him by our actions;
forgive us.**

**Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true
to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 8:35a, 38–39

Who will separate us from Christ’s love? I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Clean”

by Natalie Grant

Praise Team

*I see shattered, You see whole. I see broken, but You see beautiful.
And You're helping me to believe. You're restoring me piece by piece.*

*There's nothing too dirty that You can't make worthy.
You wash me in mercy; I am clean.
There's nothing too dirty that You can't make worthy.
You wash me in mercy; I am clean.*

*What was dead now lives again. My heart's beating, beating inside my chest.
Oh, I'm coming alive with joy and destiny cause You're restoring me piece by piece.*

*There's nothing too dirty that You can't make worthy.
You wash me in mercy; I am clean.
There's nothing too dirty that You can't make worthy.
You wash me in mercy; I am clean.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 42:1–9, John 3:17–21, Matthew 26:6–13

LITANY OF LIGHT

Leader: You knew your hour had come. You knew your betrayer. You knew your enemies.
You knew that the straw vote would not be in your favor.
But you loved unto the end.

**All: Thank you for loving us, even unto death. Teach us to love like you love.
Teach us to love each other, to love even our enemies, like you loved us.**

Leader: You took on the form of a servant, washing the feet of those whom you disciplined.
You defined humility and servanthood. You are he who was surely sent from God.

**All: Thank you for serving us. Teach us to be servants without fail;
to make humility our constant companion and to seek no glory for ourselves.
Remind us when we forget.**

Leader: On that solemn evening, you surrounded yourself with friends and enemies,
persons of faith and persons of ill-will.

**All: Help us to be able to always emulate you when we are surrounded by our friends and
especially when we are surrounded by our enemies.**

Leader: You have established a “new commandment;”
help us to live it out in every moment, in every aspect of our lives,
in our families, in our churches, in our communities, and throughout the world.

**All: On this Holy Day, we gather to remember again
the miracle that you performed in our lives.
You have brought us into the marvelous light.
At great cost to you, you have given us new life and life eternal. (silence)**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Table
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Words of Institution
The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Say: "This is the bread of life given for you."

Say: "This is the cup of hope poured out for you."

Responses might be **"Thanks be to God" or "Amen."**

*(All are invited to come forward to a Table when prompted by the ushers.
The trays contain grape juice. Gluten free crackers are available.)*

Communion Music

"Communion"

by Maverick City Music

Praise Team

Take me back to the garden, lead me back to the moment I heard Your voice.

Take me back to communion, lead me back to the moment I saw Your face.

And it was oh, so simple, it was easy to love.

And no space between us, it was easy to trust.

*'Cause You are closer, closer than my skin. And You are in the air I'm breathing in
and here's where the dead things come back to living, I feel my heart beating again.
It feels so good to know You are my friend.*

This is the garden, here in the place I find You close.

This is communion here in the place I'm fully known.

And it was oh, so simple, You're so easy to love.

And no space between us, you're so easy to trust.

*'Cause You are closer, closer than my skin. And You are in the air I'm breathing in.
and here's where the dead things come back to living, I feel my heart beating again.
It feels so good to know You are my friend.*

This is where I'm meant to be, me and You, and You and me.

I don't have to prove a thing; You've already approved of me.

We are returning, we are returning, we are returning to the desire of Your heart.

I didn't know I could have a friend like You. I didn't know I could have a friend like You.

*'Cause You are closer, closer than my skin. And You are in the air I'm breathing in.
and here's where the dead things come back to living, I feel my heart beating again.
It feels so good to know You are my friend.*

Prayer after Communion

***CLOSING PRAYER**

God, we receive the love of Christ. We receive his great example,

We receive the power and work he demonstrated by your spirit;

And we receive the commands he has given.

This is Christ's command: That we love one another. (John 13:34)

This is Christ's legacy which we receive as the gift of heaven:

Where once there was sacrifice, now there is mercy. (Hosea 6:6)

Where once there was flesh and blood,

Now there are bread and wine. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

The mercy of God has been made known in the body of Christ.

The character of God has been made known in the work of Christ.

He has shown us a way forward, and we will follow the path of peace.

All

**Who but Jesus, loves the sinner? Who but Jesus, calls him friend?
Reaches out to touch the leper, Bids the weary come to Him?
Who but Jesus, loves the lowly, Those the world has cast outside?
And with such scandalous compassion Makes a wretch his chosen bride?**

**Who but Jesus, dwells among us, Called this broken world his home?
Took on flesh and pain and sorrow Reaping what He did not sow?
With the lost He shared salvation, With the thief He shared a cross,
All that we might share His riches, Who but Christ would give it all?
Who but Jesus? Who but Jesus?**

**Who but Jesus, loves the sinner Enough to give His life?
Love too pure for men to merit, Praise too glorious to deny.
Praise Him now with my joy in living, As in death my comfort rests.
Who but Jesus, loves this sinner He alone is my righteousness.
Who but Jesus? Who but Jesus?**

**=If convenient/able, please stand.*

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The service is not over. It continues tomorrow evening at the Good Friday Worship and concludes with our joyful celebration on Easter morning. The worship services are really one service providing us an opportunity to undertake a pilgrimage of renewed commitment and joy. They invite us to travel Christ's path of servanthood, through the Last Supper and the suffering of the cross, as we move toward new and everlasting life at Easter.

Good Friday Service

April 7, 7:30pm

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES – 9:00 AND 11:00AM

Come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection this Sunday, April 9, in Grace Covenant's traditional unique way. As always this will be a glorious celebration with marvelous music, a beautifully decorated sanctuary, holy scripture, the sacrament of communion, and good, good news. Invite a neighbor! (There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday.)