

WORSHIP FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

MAUNDY THURSDAY

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather tonight to tell the old, old story.
All: **a story of bitterness and betrayal,
of despair, denial and death.**

One: We gather tonight to tell an even older story
prepared before the worlds began:
All: **a story of love powerful enough
to rewrite our endings
with the promise of new life.**

One: In the telling of the story,
in the breaking of the bread,
in the coming of the night,
All: **we draw near once more to Christ.**

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 14:1-2,10-11

***OPENING HYMN** "This Is the Night" GtG 206 (*Verses 1-3*)

**1. This is the night, dear friends, the night for weeping,
when powers of darkness overcome the day,
the night the faithful mourn the weight of evil
whereby our sins the Son of Man betray.**

**2. This night the traitor, wolf within the sheepfold,
betrays himself into his victim's will,
the Lamb of God for sacrifice preparing:
sin brings about the cure for sin's own ill.**

**3. This night Christ institutes his holy supper,
blest food and drink for heart and soul and mind;
this night injustice joins its hand to treason's,
and buys the ransom-price of humankind.**

*Words: Peter Abelard, 12th cent.; trans. Richard Lyman Sturch, 1990.
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*Music: MY NEIGHBOR, Margaret R. Tucker, 1991.
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SCRIPTURE READING Mark 14:12-16

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 12:1-3,6-8,11-14

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 14:17-21

CHOIR “I Wonder Why?”

REFLECTION by Pastor Bill Vincent

I Corinthians 11:23-26

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

One: And so we come to this table to remember, and to offer ourselves to God, unworthy as we are: to offer ourselves to God in our attempts to be obedient and our yearning to be faithful.

All: **And Christ offers himself to us in the bread and cup of this sacrament.**

One: With this sacrament, we remember Jesus’s sacrifice on our behalf, and his obedience unto death.

All: **In this sacrament we receive the promise of renewal, and the forgiveness of our faithlessness, all through the faithfulness of God.**

One: For this is the gracious feast of God, prepared for the people of God.

All: **The sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ in remembrance of his last supper with his disciples.**

One: The invitation is to all who would heed his call to follow and obey.

All: **The invitation is to all who yearn to know and to love God.**

Unison: **The invitation is to you and to me.**

One: So let us lift up our 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: Let us pray.

Unison: **We thank you, O God, for your grace given to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. By his death our sins are forgiven. Through his resurrection we are offered new life. In his ministry we are guided in the way we should go. Strengthen us through the offering of this sacrament, that we might be nurtured and filled for the living of our days. Amen.**

One: The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

All: **“This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

One: In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,
All: **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**
One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

----- Distribution of the Elements -----

(You will be invited by the ushers to come forward to receive Communion. Those who choose not to come forward will be served at their seats.)

Sing “In Remembrance of Me” GtG 521

**1. In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time
when God’s own will is done.**

**2. In remembrance of me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door
and let your neighbors in,
let them in.**

**Take, eat, and be comforted;
drink and remember, too,
that this is my body and
precious blood shed for you,
shed for you.**

**3. In remembrance of me, search for truth.
In remembrance of me, always love.
In remembrance of me, don’t look above,
but in your heart, look for God.**

Do this in remembrance of me.

Words: Ragan Courtney, 1972
Music: RED, Buryl Red, 1972
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Prayer

***CLOSING HYMN** “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” GtG 516

1. For the bread which you have broken,

**for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**2. By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**3. With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**

**4. In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

Words: Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924, alt.
Music: KINGDOM, V. Earle Copes, 1959
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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