



*We are a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith
seeking to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with our God.
Loving God... Changing Lives!*



**OAK GROVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington Minn. 55431
952-888-4621 | www.oakgrv.org

April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm

Word of Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

203

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

Loving puts us on our knees,
willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you. (Refrain)

Opening Liturgy

Reader 1: On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and said,

All: “Where do you want us to prepare for you the Passover meal?”

Reader 2: He replied, “Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, ‘The teacher says, “My time is near. I’m going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.”’” The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.

Reader 1: Let us pray together and give thanks.

All: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all which is set out before us. Send your Holy Spirit to fill each of us with thanks and praise. Guide us as we remember that your Anointed One, on the night before he suffered, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood. Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life. Amen.

Reader 1: Here are the commandments of Jesus:

Group 1: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. (Matthew 22:37)

Group 2: You must love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39)

Group 3: Do not pay back violence with violence. (Mt. 5:39)

Group 4: Do not withhold forgiveness. (Mt. 6:15)

Group 5: Do not hate or curse your enemies. (Mt. 5:44)

Group 6: Do not pray like the hypocrites or make a show of your faith. (Mt. 6:1)

Group 7: Do not ignore the needs of the poor. (Mt. 19:21)

Group 8: Do not put the letter of the Law over the heart of the Law. (Mt. 15:10)

All: Do not be afraid. (Mt. 28:10)

Reader 2: Jesus said, "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love. This is my commandment: Love each other."

All: This is our commandment. To love each other.

Reader 2: Jesus said, "No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends... I give you these commandments so that you can love each other."

Reader 1: Before Jesus and his disciples gathered for the meal, there was one who had taken matters into his own hands. For thirty pieces of silver, Judas had agreed to hand Jesus over to the chief priests. From that moment on, Judas was looking for the right time to betray Jesus.

Reader 2: "I assure you, one of you will betray me."

All: I'm not the one, am I, Lord?

Reader 2: “The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl.”

All: Judas said, “It’s not me, is it, Rabbi?”

Reader 2: You said it.

Reader 1: Let us confess together:

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have betrayed you. We have denied you. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader 1: Hear the good news: when Christ gathered with his disciples to remind them of his love, he knew that he gathered with the one who betrayed him, the one who would deny him, and all who would abandon him. This proves that Jesus loved them, even when they failed him, and he loves us still today. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Sharing a Meal & Table Talk

Hymn

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

525

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (Refrain)

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Reader 1: On the night in which he was betrayed, and while they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

All: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.”

Reader 2: And when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, shared it with his disciples and said,

All: “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 of it, in remembrance of me.”

Reader 1: 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.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Reader 2: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

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.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sharing a Meal & Table Talk

Hymn

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”
(*sung several times*)

471

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

After the Meal

Reader 1: Then after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Reader 2: Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, ‘I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions.’ But after I’m raised up, I’ll go before you in Galilee.”

Reader 1: Peter replied

All: “If everyone else stumbles because of you, I’ll never stumble.”

Reader 2: Jesus said to him, “I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times.”

All: “Even if I must die alongside you, I won’t deny you.”

Reader 1: All the disciples said the same thing.

Group 1: I won’t deny you

Group 2: I won’t deny you

Reader 2: Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to his disciples “Stay here while I go pray over there.” When he took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, “I’m very sad. It’s as if I’m dying. Stay here alert with me.”

Reader 1: As Jesus prayed in anguish, none of the disciples could stay awake. A moment before they all pledged their undying loyalty. Now they couldn’t stay awake to pray in Jesus’ time of need. Finally, it was time.

Reader 2: After finding them asleep again, Jesus said, “Get up. Let’s go. Look, here comes my betrayer.”

Reader 1: While Jesus was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. His betrayer had given them a sign.

All: “Arrest the man I kiss.” Just then he came to Jesus and said, “Hello Rabbi.” Then he kissed him.

Reader 2: Jesus said “Friend, come do what you came to do.”

Reader 1: Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest’s slave, he cut off his ear.

Reader 2: Then Jesus said to him, “Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I am not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve Legions of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?”

Reader 1: Then Jesus said to the crowds

Reader 2: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as if I were a thief? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.”

All: Then all of the disciples deserted Jesus, and fled.

Reader 1: Get up. Let’s go. Look, the hour is at hand. It is time to depart from this place. Tomorrow is another day to remember and reflect on all that Jesus did and gave for us. Go now and remember Jesus’ last commandment: to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go in peace, transformed by Christ’s commands.

All: This is our commandment: To love each other. We will go in peace and wait. We will try to stay awake.

Hymn

“Bless the Lord”
(*sung several times*)

544

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

John 13:2b–15, 34–35

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 the table, 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 returned to the table, 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... 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.”



Questions for Table Conversation:

- As you share the meal together, reflect on the simple and yet profound gifts that you are enjoying, and share something for which you are grateful.
- What did you hear in the story of this night that spoke to you?
- Which character do you most relate to in this text? Why?
- Why do you think Peter is resistant to Jesus washing his feet?