

Maundy Thursday
Service of Worship & Table
April 6, 2023 6:00 pm

Words of Welcome

We love You, Lord. You hear us. You listen to our prayers.

You have always heard us whenever we've called to You.

Though death tries to bind us and the gates of hell open before us,

We will call on the Lord's name for deliverance.

You are full of grace and righteousness.

Lord, You are full of compassion.

Hymn -- "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Loving Christ, on that night long ago, You knew that Your hour had come. You knew full well what lay ahead of You. Your disciples loved You and followed You, but they also failed You. They would fail You yet again that night, and one would betray You. You washed their feet, as a servant would – even the feet of Your betrayer.

We have also loved You and followed You. We have also failed You, and we cannot comprehend the love that You show us, the love that is our example, the love that tells us to do as You have done for us. May we be like You, Master, servants of all. May all see how we long to be Your faithful disciples. May all see how we love each other, just as You have loved us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Now the Son of Man, the One who loves us, is glorified, in Him, God is also glorified. The One who loves us gives us a new commandment: to love one another! As the Lord has loved us, you are to love each other. Let all see this love among you, and glorify God. Let all see how you belong to Christ. Amen.

Hymn -- "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Gospel reading: John 13:1-17, 31-35

Reading excerpt from "The Day I was Crucified" by Gene Edwards

Hymn -- "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

On this night we gather as the Hebrew people gathered in exile to share the Lamb and celebrate Your passing over them in mercy. On this night, we gather amazed and humbled to have the dust of our souls washed by the servant Messiah. We pause in our hurried lives to ask:

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused Christ to lay aside His life for my soul?

We pass on tonight to children and strangers what we have received from You, Lord Jesus. Who on the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "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 it, in memory of me."

And so we remember:

**How you came to us poor and vulnerable,
How You taught us by story and example,
How You fed us on hillside and seashore.**

As we remember You,

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 Holy Spirit make us living remembrances of Your great love and life. Fill us with a new understanding of love among all Your children that others may see our witness and draw close to You.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, we give You praise and thanks. Amen.

The Body of Christ broken for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

How precious to the Lord is the death of His faithful ones.

How precious is the sacrifice of Christ. You are the treasure for which everything was given. Know that you are precious to God. And know that you are worthy of Christ's sacrifice.

Amen.

Closing Hymn -- "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

A SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



First Congregational United Church of Christ

Officiant – Pastor Jon Gougeon

Pianist – Sandy Jarmuzewski

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His Wonderful Face
And the things of earth
Will grow strangely dim
In the light of His Glory and Grace

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
2 Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.
3 Breathe on me, breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.
4 Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life of your eternity.

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this! That Christ should come in bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on
And through eternity, I'll sing on!

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Verse 1

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in the hand,
Christ our God to earth descending,
Our full homage to demand.

Verse 2

Monarch great, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth Christ stood,
Lord of all, in human vesture --
In the body and the blood --
Christ will give to all the faithful
bread of life for heavenly food.

Verse 3

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descending
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the shadows clear away.

Verse 4

At Christ's feet the six-winged seraphs,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with cease-less voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, God most high!

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And the things of earth
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