

United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
April 9, 2020 – Maundy Thursday

**A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD**

**PRELUDE** *Meditation on Lift High the Cross* by J. Linker  
Bob Oehme, organ

**WELCOME**  
(Pastor John)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**  
(Beth Garry)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as you wash the feet of your disciples  
make us ready to follow you,  
loving and serving one another  
in your name. **Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

(Beth Garry, Betsy Cahill, Nathaniel Garry)

ONE: The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,  
This shall be a day of remembrance for you.

**ALL: We will celebrate it as a festival to the Lord  
throughout all generations.**

ONE: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.

**ALL: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes.**

**\*HYMN** *Community of Christ*  
(Tune: LEONI)

Mary Williams, voice  
Bob Oehme, organ

**\*THE CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF PEACE**

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **SCRIPTURE** – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**HYMN** *Jesus Took the Bread* (v. 1-2)  
(Tune: NEW HOPE)

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

(Pastor John, Mary Williams, Gary Gray,  
Bob and Linda Oehme, Meena Conant, Jason Handy)

#### **CONFESSION**

**ONE:** Let us confess our imperfection before God and one another. I confess to God and in the company of the people of God that my life and the life of all the world is not whole.

**ALL:** **May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

**ONE:** Amen.

**ALL:** **We confess to God and in the company of the people of God that each of our lives and the life of all the world is not whole.**

**ONE:** May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

**ALL:** **Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE**

**ONE:** Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus, the Christ.

**ALL:** **Through Jesus we have obtained access to the grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. Amen.**

#### **COMMUNION PRAYERS**

**ONE:** This table is open to all who call Jesus Lord and Savior, all who wish to share in the community of God's people. Let us share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In the beginning, God made the world:

**WOMEN:** **Made it and mothered it,**

**MEN:** **Shaped it and fathered it;**

**W:** **Filled it with the seed of all that is good,**

**M:** **Filled it with life and with song and variety;**

ONE: All that is green, blue, deep and growing;

**ALL: The hand of God created us.**

ONE: All that is tender, firm, fragrant and curious;

**ALL: The hand of God created us.**

ONE: The world belongs to God,

**ALL: The earth and all its people.**

ONE: When the time was right, God sent the Messiah.

**W: Sent and nurtured Jesus,**

**M: Reared and risked Jesus;**

**W: Filled Jesus with laughter, tears and compassion,**

**M: With love, devotion and with anger at injustice.**

**ALL: Jesus, the Messiah, is God's own Child.**

ONE: Feeder, teacher and healer, lover of the unlovable, the one who touched the untouchable, forgiver of the unforgivable,

**ALL: Jesus, the Messiah, is God's own Child.**

ONE: Loved by the least, feared by the leaders; befriended by the weak, despised by the strong; deserted by those who listened, denied by friends; bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh, writing heaven's pardon over the earth,

**ALL: Jesus, the Messiah, is God's own Child.**

ONE: The Word became flesh,

**ALL: And lived among us, and was one of us.**

ONE: When the world became impatient with love

**W: Carpenters took up their tools,**

**M: And made a cross for God's own Child,**

**W: Fashioned from wood and the skill of human hands,**

**M: Fashioned from hate and the will of human minds.**

ONE: And Jesus was summoned to the judgement hall, an enemy of the state, a danger to the religious authorities, and was judged.

**ALL: Bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh.**

ONE: Jesus died, declaring God's forgiveness, rose on the third day, transforming death, ascended into heaven, and is everywhere on earth. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as the seal of the intention of God. Jesus sets before us bread and wine, and invites us to the table. This is the place where we are shown God's love, where we are one in Christ, the Messiah. For God sent the Messiah not to condemn the world,

**ALL: But that the world, through Jesus, might participate in the salvation God offers.**

ONE: Holy God, we praise You for Your creation, and remember Your covenant made with Your people, shown to us in fullness with the birth of Your child, Jesus, and completed in the resurrection of the Christ. We remember, too, that on the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying: "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by Your Holy Spirit, O God, these gifts, and bless us that, as we receive them, we may be united with Christ and one another, and continue to be faithful in all things. Amen.

Let us proclaim with these ancient words what we believe.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

ONE: Let us now pray, as the saints who have witnessed to us and preceded us throughout the ages have prayed by saying The Lord's Prayer.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER ('TRESPASS)**

Our Father, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

ONE: Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ and through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

**ALL: Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

ONE: These are the gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you.

### **SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

#### **WORDS AT THE TIME OF COMMUNION**

ONE: Eat this for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.

As you receive the cup, drink it, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

ONE: Please join with us in the responsive Prayer of Thanksgiving.

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

ONE: In the end as in the beginning, God is God:

**W: Loved by us, wanted by us,**

**M: Praised by us, served by us;**

**W: Filling people with gifts of the Spirit,**

**M: Making us whole for the good of the earth.**

ONE: For bread and wine, for this place and this time,

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ONE: For the peace which is not of this world,

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ONE: For the hope of heaven on earth and the final song of joy,

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *Jesus Took the Bread* (v. 3-4)  
(Tune: NEW HOPE)

**SCRIPTURE** John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**SERMON**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love*  
(Tune: CHEREPONI)

Mary Willams, voice  
Bob Oehme, organ

**CHARGE**

This is our new commandment:  
to love one another, as Jesus loves us.  
By this everyone will know that we are Christ’s disciples:  
that we love one another

**POSTLUDE**

*Wondrous Love*

Arr. By John Purifoy  
Tune: Southern Harmony

Cheri Oakley, flute  
Jason Handy, piano

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## Maundy Thursday

### *Questions for Reflection*

The lectionary readings for Holy Thursday are full of sacramental themes and imagery: (1) the institution of the Passover meal in Exodus 12:1–14, just before the crossing of the sea; (2) the gift of the Lord's Supper described in 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; and (3) the imagery of bathing and washing in John 13:1–17, 31b–35. Reflect on the understanding and practice of the sacraments in your congregation. How are these biblical themes and images reflected? Think about the relationship between the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper in your congregation. How is that relationship communicated, negotiated, or lived out?

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

O Lord, as I live for you this day, *Ps. 116:15–16*  
keep me faithful.

Let my living and my dying  
be precious in your sight,  
so that I may live for you forever;  
I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

O Lord, as I rest in you this night, *Ps. 116:15–16*  
keep me faithful.

Let my dying and my living  
be precious in your sight  
so that I may rest in you forever;  
I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Holy*