



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

06 April 2023 + 7:00 p.m.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Voluntary

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Gerre Hancock

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: On this night, Christ gathered with his disciples
in an upper room.

People: **On this night, Christ took a towel and washed his
disciples' feet.**

Leader: On this night, Christ gave us this holy feast,
that in bread and cup we may proclaim his holy
sacrifice and partake in his resurrection.

People: **On this night, Christ prayed in a garden, and gave
himself into the hands of those who would kill him.**

Leader: On this night, Jesus gave us a new commandment:

People: **to love one another as he loved us.**

Leader: Holding onto that love, let us walk with courage
through the darkness of this night.

***Hymn 202**

An Upper Room Did our Lord Prepare

O Waly Waly

An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he
loved until the end: and his disciples still
gather there to celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his
bread, his loving cup. Whatever burdens may
bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet, for service,
too, is sacrament. In Christ our joy shall be
made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace. He loves
beyond our uttermost: in every room in our
Father's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

***Prayer of Confession**

Cleanse us, Lord Jesus, as you alone are able; wash us that we may be forgiven and made whole. For we confess these things: though you have commanded love, we are often cold and thoughtless; though you have called us to humble ministry, we have been slow to adopt servant hearts; though you have died to set us free, we have failed to show the love for one another that tells the world we belong to you and you are among us. Have mercy, O Lord, and rid us of these our faults. Refresh us for service, and inspire us to love as you have loved us. This we ask in your holy name. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Reading

John 13:1-7, 12-17, 34-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And 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."

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Meditation Now that You Know Rev. Christian K. Choi

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements *The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread and the cup as you receive it.*

Music at Communion Ave Verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Hail, true body, born of Mary.
Who having truly suffered, was sacrificed
on the cross for all humanity.

Prayer after Communion God of grace, your Son Jesus Christ left us this holy meal of bread and wine in which we share his body and blood. May we, who have celebrated this sign of great love, live lives of gratitude and compassion; through Jesus Christ, whom we follow, with your grace, in death and in life. Amen.

THE STRIPPING OF THE CHANCEL

Organ Adagio for Strings Samuel Barber
Candles are extinguished and removed. Chancel flowers, Communion elements, Communion cloths, and cushions are removed. The people bow their heads in silence.

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

*Congregational Hymn 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

First Word

*Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."
(Luke 23:32-34)*

Leader: Before you die, Jesus Christ, and the world goes into deep darkness, take from our lives, from our spirits, from our consciences all that has offended you, all that has hurt others, and the intransigence which has made us numb to the plight of those whom we could help and heal. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: On this day, at this time, irrespective of our faith or lack of it, we accept deeply in our hearts Christ's only words that can set us free. Your sins are forgiven; your sins are forgiven.

People: Amen.

Anthem They Crucified My Lord

Spiritual

They crucified my Lord, and he never said a
mumbalin' word. Not a word. Not a word.

The nailed him to the tree, and he never said a
mumbalin' word. Not a word. Not a word.

They pierced him in the side, and he never said a
mumbalin' word. Not a word. Not a word.

He bowed his head and died, and he never said a
mumbalin' word. Not a word. Not a word.



Second Word

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

Leader:

Lord Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom, Remember us, not for our possessions, nor for the things we have accomplished. Remember us, not for the virtues we display from time to time, or for any credit we think we deserve. Remember us, as one of the criminal community, who hung at your side, and if life will not let us be in paradise with you today, Keep a place for us.

People: Amen.

Anthem Jesus, Remember Me When You Come Into Your Kingdom



Third Word *Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "**Woman, here is your son.**" Then he said to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:25-27)*

Leader: For our families, where they are open, loving, supportive, that their joy might be kept safe,

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For our families, where they are tense, troubled, fragmented, that they may find a way beyond the pain, Lord, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For ourselves, in this place of worship, surrounded by brothers and sisters whose journey we have not travelled, whose depth of faith we do not know, whose potential we cannot imagine, that we may know we belong to each other. Lord, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: And before you leave the cross and we depart from this worship experience, if there is one of your family for whom we could care more fondly, direct our gaze to them, as you turned Mary toward John.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Congregational Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Passion Chorale

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame
weighed down; now scornfully surrounded with thorns,
thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what
bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners'
gain; mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the
deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve the
place; look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.

What language should I borrow to thank thee, dearest
friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

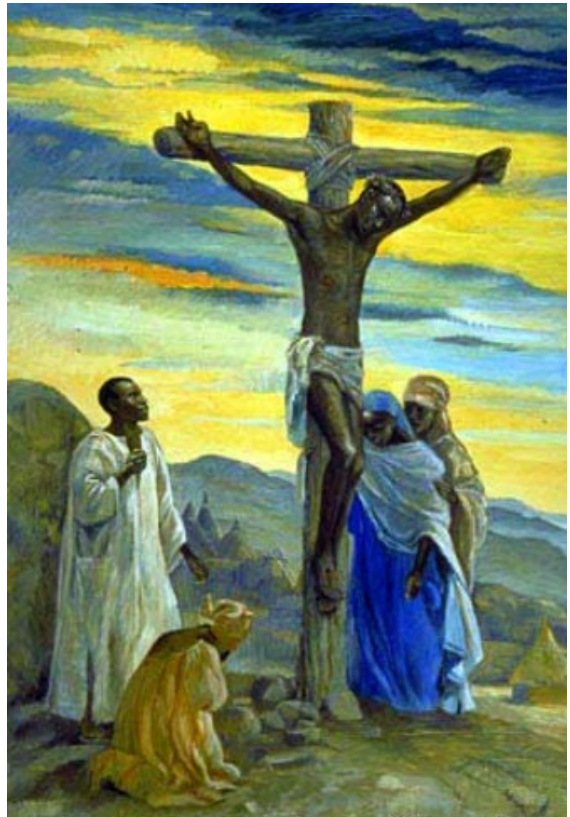


Fourth Word *From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46)*

Leader: Lord Jesus, by your cry of desperate honesty, rid us of superficial faith which is afraid of the dark. Not so that we might be justified pessimists, rather that we might discover profound joy. Give us, when we need it, the courage to doubt, to rage, to question, to rail against heaven until we know we are heard. We do not ask for easy answers during difficult and painful times; there are many who can offer these. We ask for a sense of your solidarity, that will be enough to let us know that we do not walk or cry alone; that will enable us to go through the dark and find light again in the morning.

People: Amen.

Silent Reflection



Fifth Word *After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, “I am thirsty.” (John 19:28)*

Leader: You have made us for yourself. We know it, even if we cannot name it. We have had these bodies and these minds long enough to learn to live with our limitations. Yet, despite this, something in us longs, yearns, thirsts for something more. Thank you for the incompleteness, thank you for the yearning, thank you for this thirst. Thank you for giving us enough of you to want more that we may sense of the fulness of eternity within the limits of time.

People: Amen.

Congregational Hymn *What Wondrous Love is This, O My Soul* American Tune, 1810

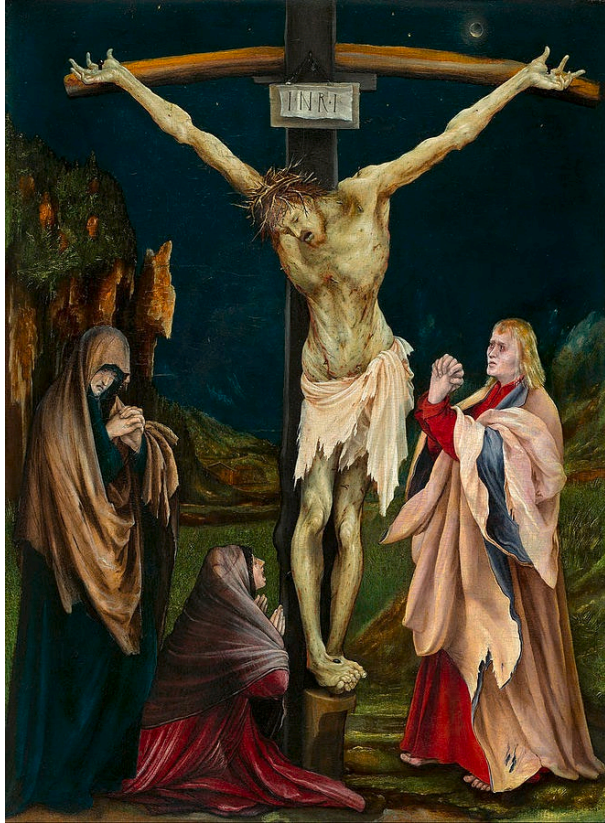


What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul.
What wondrous love is this that caused the
Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's
righteous crown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown 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.

Sixth Word

*A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “**It is finished.**” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:29-30)*

Silent Reflection



Seventh Word

*It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**” Having said this, he breathed his last.” (Luke 23:44-46)*

Anthem

Lamb of God

Twila Paris

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.
Your gift of love they crucified. They laughed and scorned
him as he died. The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed
the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.
I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a Lamb of God.



Tolling of the Bell

Dismissal *All depart in silence.*

(Stand, as you are able*

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters

Michael Morthland, Bassoon

Mary Ray, Communion Preparation Team

Susan Shaw, Communion Bread

Aaron Berkowitz, Mary Ray, Jay Kennerly, Peter Kieffer, Tim Kluge, Jeanne VanGieson,
Karen Sherrick, Brad Steller, Elders Serving Communion

Mervice Alah Abung, George Botanga, Kristianna Eastvold, Julie McDonough,
Jim Rigney, Jess Weitzel, Deacons Stripping the Chancel

Bob Fox and Krista Steller, Videographers

MAUNDY THURSDAY, the name given to the Thursday before Easter, comes from the Latin *Dies Mandati*, the “Day of Commandment,” which refers to the commandments given that night by Jesus to his disciples: to “love one another” and to “do this in remembrance of me.”

Following Holy Communion, the table is stripped of all ornamentation to remind the Church of the catastrophe and desolation of the events of Good Friday.

Tonight's service will conclude with the “Seven Last Words of Christ” interwoven with liturgy and musical reflections as we prepare our hearts and minds for the events leading up to Easter morning.

THE HOLY WEEK ART DISPLAY AND LABYRINTH – Following worship all are invited to view the art display in Parish Hall. This exhibit brings together artistic interpretations of scenes of the events of the final week of Christ's life through the eyes of Fra Angelico, DaVinci, Durer, Caravaggio, Dali and many others.

Westminster's Labyrinth is also located in Parish Hall for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

