



Maundy Thursday • March 28, 2024 • 7:00 pm

178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Grace and peace to you, and welcome!

Maundy Thursday is the day Jesus celebrated the Passover in the upper room in Jerusalem, the night before His crucifixion. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word “mandatum” which means “commandment.” It refers to the command Jesus gave to his disciples that evening:

“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.”

John 13:34-35

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.

THE GATHERING

Prelude: Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ (from *Orgelbüchlein*, BWV 639) Johann Sebastian Bach
I call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ

***Welcome and Call to Worship** The Rev. Scott Herr

Leader: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

People: **Just as Jesus loves us, let us love one another.**

Leader: This is the night when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered Himself to those who would kill Him, setting us free from sin and death forever.

People: **This is the night when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another.**

Leader: This is the night when Christ, the Bread of Heaven, shared a Holy meal with His followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

All: **And so, we come to hear again the story of the passion of our Lord and to worship the God of amazing grace and wondrous love: Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

***Hymn No. 202:** An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare *O Waly Waly*



1 An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he
2 A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his
3 And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,
4 No end there is! We de - part in peace. He loves be -



loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still
bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may
too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be
yond our ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our



gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.
bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.
made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.
Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Invitation to Confession Stephanie Hare

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession of Sin (Unison)

Stephanie Hare

People: Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill Your will. Though You have bound Yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to You. In Jesus Christ, You serve us freely, but we refuse Your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love You fully nor do we love one another as You command. In Your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to Your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

(silence for further reflection and repentance...)

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Stephanie Hare

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: Amen!

*Passing of the Peace

Stephanie Hare

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive one another and share the peace of Christ with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

THE WORD

First Lesson – I Corinthians 11:23-26

Lisa Gifford

²³For 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, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

In Monte Oliveti (Upon the Mount of Olives)

Giovanni Croce

In monte oliveti oravit ad Patrem:
Pater, si fieri potest,
transeat a me calix iste.
Spiritus quidem promptus est,
caro autem infirma.
Fiat voluntas tua.

Upon the Mount of Olives he prayed to the Father:
Father, if thou hast the power,
take from me this great cup of sorrow.
For yet the spirit wills to live,
though the body is weary.
Thy will be done, my Father.

FPCNC Choir

¹Now 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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²After 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? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

He Gets Us

The Rev. Scott Herr

Foot washing

*Washing of feet is a sign of Christ's love and care for us
and of the humble service to which we are called as Christ's disciples.*

THE EUCHARIST

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Invitation

Minister: Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may.

Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance.

Come not to express any opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a Spirit.

Come to this table, sisters and brothers, as you are.

Come, eat this bread; drink this cup; be nourished and renewed by these signs of Christ's sacrifice.

People: **We come because Christ bids us come.**

We come to receive Christ's gift freely given.

We come that we might be one with Him and bound to one another by His love.

We come to be nourished by Christ's eternal love and to offer our sacrifice of praise and thanks—our lives lived in proclamation of Christ, crucified and risen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

Minister: Together, we declare your praise saying:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest...

Minister: Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again...

Minister: Together, we pray as You taught us to pray, saying:

People: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

The Rev. Scott Herr

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup


If you require gluten free, please request it.

Communion

Prayer After Communion (unison)

The Rev. Scott Herr

God of grace, we give You thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared in the body and blood of our Savior. As You have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim Your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2 Here share with us, in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood,
Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
that liv - ing bread, that heaven - ly wine be our im - mor - tal food.

Stripping of the Paraments

Why do we strip the Sanctuary of the Paraments and all color and objects of worship? It's a tradition that acknowledges the betrayal and abandonment of Jesus by all of his disciples. It prepares the Sanctuary for Good Friday Worship when we remember what Christ did for us that we could not do for ourselves. By stripping away all of our signs of adoration and honor, we admit to those times in life when we deny our Lord. As Paul writes, "Christ died to rescue sinners," including us.

Please depart in silence.

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Good Friday Tenebrae – March 29

5:00pm Service

Easter Sunday – March 31

7:00am Sunrise Service

Memorial Garden (weather permitting or in Common Room)

There will be a light breakfast in the Common Room at 8:00am, please join us.

10:00am Service with Holy Communion

*Featuring festive music with brass, tympani, organ, our FPCNC Choir, guests, and soloists.
All are invited to sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah at the close of the Service.*

11:30am Easter Egg Hunt

Immediately following Worship on Easter Sunday, all children (their family and friends!) are invited to participate in an Easter Egg hunt outside. Join us for coffee, juice and light snacks and gather outside on the back lawn off the patio and Common Room doors for an organized start before the children find their Easter Eggs. Let's see who can grab the most eggs!

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir

Lay Readers: Lisa Gifford, Stephanie Hare and Stacy Arevalo

Cross Bearer: Armin Thies

Communion Server: Cindy Graziano and Armin Thies

Communion Preparer: Cathy and Rick Hollingsworth

MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTORS

The Reverend Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Reverend Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

OUR STAFF

Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts • Stephanie Hare, Director of Family Ministries
Stacy Arevalo, Seminary Intern • Jim Riehl, Business Administrator • Wendy Starr, Office Manager
Emily Johnson, Communications Assistant • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers

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