

*First United Methodist Church
Thursday, April 17, 2025
Maundy Thursday*



Maundy Thursday – The Last Supper

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Derived from the Latin word “mandatum,” meaning “commandment,” Maundy refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice.

Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children’s messages and liturgist roles will appear on camera.

Prelude *O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde gross (O humanity, lament your great sin)* J.S. Bach
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Words of Welcome Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship**

One: This is a day to remember.

All: We remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples.

One: We remember Jesus washing the feet of his friends.

All: We remember, and in remembering we are called to serve one another.

One: We remember, and thank God for Jesus’ presence with us then and now.

*** Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Ever-loving God, we gather together this evening, just as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago. We come from different places, but we all come with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us in the breaking of the bread of our need for you and of your sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and redeemer. Amen.

Meditation Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Anthem *Pange lingua* Anton Bruckner

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

*Sung in Latin. English translation:
Tell, tongue, the mystery of the glorious Body
and of the precious Blood, which, for the price of world,
the fruit of a noble Womb, the King of the Nations poured forth.*

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

Offering plates are available as you come forward for communion.

Following communion, children grade 5 and under may leave for an activity or the Nursery

Tenebrae: Service of Shadows

The Tenebrae takes place in near darkness. It dates back to the fourth century and recalls the seven shadows falling on Christ in the last hours of his life on earth. As the passion story unfolds, the darkness increases as light by light is extinguished. After each Scripture lesson and reflection, there will be a time of silence for your private meditation, and then a candle will be extinguished.

Litany of Light and Darkness

One: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

One: And this is the judgment, that light has come into the world

All: and we have loved darkness rather than light.

* Hymn *What Wondrous Love is This*

UM Hymnal #292, v. 1, 2

Responsive Scripture Reading and Prayer

One: For God so loved the world that God gave Jesus,

All: That whoever believes may not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

One: The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,

All: But to we who are being saved, it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

One: We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

All: but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

One: For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1:23-25) Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus, you gave your life and were willing to die on the cross so that we might have abundant and eternal life freed from fears of the powers of death and of death itself. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world to come. Amen.

Special Music *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*
Riley Hinnenkamp, baritone

spiritual, arr. Victor Johnson

Shadow of Betrayal

Scripture: Matthew 26:20-25

Reflection: *I remember Judas' betrayal and I wonder, have I ever betrayed someone I loved or some cause in which I truly believed.*

The first candle is extinguished.

Shadow of Desertion

Scripture: Matthew 26:31-35

Reflection: *I remember how Jesus was deserted and I wonder, when there is trouble, do I run? The second candle is extinguished.*

Shadow of Inner Agony

Scripture: Luke 22:39-44

Reflection: *I remember our Lord's agony of soul and I wonder, in times of tough decisions, do I have such agony of soul to know and to do the will of God? The third candle is extinguished.*

* Hymn *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

UM Hymnal #286, v. 1, 2

Shadow of Denial

Scripture: Luke 22:54-62

Reflection: *I remember Peter's denial and I wonder, have I stood by my friends in trouble, or has my loyalty only been in fair weather? The fourth candle is extinguished.*

Shadow of the Crowd

Scripture: Matthew 27:15-24

Reflection: *I remember the crowd calling for Jesus' crucifixion. I remember Pilate washing his hands of responsibility. I wonder, have I ever been part of a crowd and acted in a way that I never would have acted alone? Have I been guilty of shirking my responsibilities? The fifth candle is extinguished.*

Shadow of Humiliation

Scripture: Matthew 27:27-31

Reflection: *I remember Jesus being humiliated and I wonder, have I ever been party to making fun of others? Have I denied anybody their dignity by my failure to speak and act? The sixth candle is extinguished.*

* Hymn *Were You There*

UM Hymnal #288, v. 1, 2

Shadow of Death

Scripture: Luke 23: 33-38

Reflection: *I remember Christ's death on the Cross and I wonder, do I realize he died for me? The seventh candle is extinguished.*

33 strokes will be sounded for the years of Jesus' life

Choral Benediction *What Wondrous Love is This*
Sanctuary Choir and singing bells

Benediction

We are witnesses to Jesus' death. The service is ended. Tomorrow, walk with Christ in his death. Return in three days to worship the Risen Lord.

Worshippers are asked to leave the Sanctuary in silence.

* Please stand as you are comfortable



Service Participants

Tenebrae Readers: Geoff Bell, Mark Harvey, Rev. MaryAnne Korsch, Rev. Karen Schuder

Nail Pounding: Larry Ehresman



HOLY WEEK

Good Friday Service, Friday, April 18, at noon in the Three Brothers Chapel, will walk us through Jesus' death and the events of the last hours of his life.

Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 20 at 7:30am, will be a short service in the Sanctuary featuring Tapestry.

Easter Morning Coffee Hour will take place between the two services, from 9-9:45 in Lakeview Social Hall.

Easter Worship, Sunday, April 20 at 10am, will be our traditional worship service with the Sanctuary Choir, Strikepoint, brass and organ. There will be an Easter egg hunt and activities for children.

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

Thank you to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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