Maundy is a word from Latin that means mandate or commandment. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Passover night where Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment, that they love one another. Jesus said, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another,” John 13:34.

Prelude
Wondrous Love
arr. David Johnson
Marty Hodel, trumpet

Welcome

Opening Hymn
Ah, Holy Jesus
#218

Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,
That mortal judgment has on you
descended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay
you,
I do adore you, and will ever pray you,
Think on your pity and your love
unswerving,
Not my deserving.

Prayer of Confession
Adapted, Kelly Burd

The congregation is invited to join in the words in bold.

One: On this night, we remember the love Jesus showed, gathered at the table with his friends. We seek to live out the new commandment--that we love one another. But we also take this time to contemplate the things that entice us to betray God’s love.

Silence for confession and reflection

All: Compassionate God, we are humbled by Christ’s love for the world. We take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today. Forgive us when we choose our own comfort over care for others, when we cannot see our own privilege, and when we act in scarcity instead of abundance. Guide us back to trust and faithful living, that we may live in the world as you do, with love and compassion. Amen.

Words of Assurance
based on Romans 8:31-38; Matthew 19:26

One: There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate us from the love of God.
All: All shall be reconciled with God, for nothing is impossible with God.
Celebration of Holy Communion

Music For Communion

Ah, Holy Jesus

Helmut Walcha

If you have prepared elements in your home to use for communion: bread, juice or wine, a special cloth, candle, or item that reminds you of someone in your circle of faith besides the bread and the cup, we invite you to bring them forward into your communion space. If you do not have elements to signify communion, please know that even a cup of water can become a remembrance of God’s love.

Invitation

Adapted, Maren Tirabassi

One: for Holy Communion this evening, we invite you to lend Christ your table.

One: On the first day of Holy week long ago, people throughout Judea arrived at the dusty gates of Jerusalem, primed with “Hosanna” in their hearts, and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey.

One: On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given John Mark’s mother’s Upper Room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples.

One: On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless.

One: Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart now, for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, “The Lord has need of it.”

Prayer of Consecration

The congregation is invited to join in the words in bold.

One: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, we are one in Christ. In your kitchens, living rooms, and various spaces, rest your hands upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God’s blessing upon them.

All: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace.
Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing, upon every table where your child shelters in place. May this bread be broken and gathered in love, and this cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you. Amen.

Words of Remembering

One: We remember that Paul the apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout places we now call Greece, Turkey, and Macedonia, and they were the first “remote” worship resources. Our online service has a long heritage. The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these:

“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, 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.’ 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.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

Blessing the Elements

All: Spirit of Christ, bless our tables and our lives. Through this bread, give us courage to speak in faith and act in love, not only in church, but in your precious world. Through this cup, renew our hope, even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits, and hearts need healing. Let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

One: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the bread of heaven.
All: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

One: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the cup of blessing.
All: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Please partake of the Communion elements you have in your space. If you have not prepared elements, please take a moment to simply rest in this shared experience.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give you thanks, Holy One, for this meal of grace, rejoicing that by the very practice of our worship, we have embodied the truth that your love is not limited by buildings, made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places. Abide with us now, as we continue to follow Jesus to the cross. Amen.
Please depart quietly as you leave Zoom worship. There is no closing blessing as the worship ends, because the story continues through resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Please take part in our Good Friday Guided Meditation, and join us for Zoom worship on Easter Sunday April 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Thanks to our Maundy Thursday worship leaders:
  Rev. Wendy Vander Hart
  Rev. Lauren Baske Davis
  Chris Brunelle, Piano
  Theo Wee, Organ
  Marty Hodel, Trumpet