**Maundy Thursday Service 2021**

**Introduction**

Welcome everyone to our Maundy Thursday service. We are glad to hear your voices and see your faces!

In a moment I will mute everyone’s audio. You will still be able to hear everything. We have found with online meetings, there is often background noise, and sometimes a delay and trying to sing together or read together is difficult, so instead you will just hear my voice and your own. We will make sure that at the beginning and the end of the service you will be able to speak if you wish and greet everyone from the church.

During the service I will be sharing my screen to show the words for the songs as well as some images relating to the scenes we will hear and see.

I invite you, if you haven’t done so, to have your bread and juice or wine ready. If you don’t have bread, crackers or even dry cereal will do, and water will serve just as well. In the early church, people brought what they had with them to the table to observe the Lord’s Supper. In our Baptist tradition, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. All of us, with the power of the Holy Spirit, are invited to partake and share the Lord’s Supper. You don’t have to have an ordained minister to administer communion. All of us are invited and welcomed at Christ’s table.

Tonight we will hear from the Gospel according to Mark, the story of Jesus’ Last Supper, his betrayal, arrest, and death. I hope that you will hear this story with an ear for the places where we have sometimes fallen short, blamed others, and made excuses for our own actions, as Jesus’ own disciples did.

At this point, I am going to change our settings to mute everyone except the speakers when it is their turn.

**Words of Welcome**

Tonight, we gather, alone and yet together. We are together to remember the events of long ago, as Jesus gathered with his disciples to share the Passover meal together. But we are alone, a reminder that the disciples also were scattered by the end of the evening. We live with the hope that we will be together again, and we live with the hope of resurrection.

But on this night, we pause in the evening, as the sun sets, and remember how one by one, the faithful disciples failed. They acted out of fear. They acted out of anger. They acted out of an innate human desire to save themselves at all cost.

On this night, we remember how Christ came for us, how Christ broke bread and shared the cup, how Christ laid down his life for us that we might know forgiveness, that we might know that death does not have the final word.

On this night, we remember.

**Prayer of Invocation**

Holy One, as the evening draws over us, we know that we have fallen short in our own lives. We have let others down. We have failed to live up to our commitments. We have abandoned friends. At times, we have been let down, we have been betrayed, we have felt hurt and left behind. On this night, we seek Your forgiveness for our faults, as we seek to forgive one another. We seek Christ, and know that even when we have been faithless, he remains faithful to us, for he cannot deny himself. It is in Christ that we find healing, forgiveness, and hope for us, now and always. Amen.

Taize Song: Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

*Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.*

*Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.*

**First Reading: Mark 14:3-26**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

Again, we hear the words of Jesus, who took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take and eat. This is my body.” I invite you to take of your bread, and eat it.

*(eat together)*

Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven.” I invite you to drink of the cup.

*(drink together)*

“I tell you, I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father’s kingdom.” Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

(Reprise *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*)

**Second Reading: Mark 14:27-42**

Taize Song: Stay Here And Keep Watch With Me

*Stay here and keep watch with me, the hour has come.*

*Stay here and keep watch with me, watch and pray.*

**Third Reading: Mark 14:43-52**

Song: What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 1)

*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.*

**Fourth Reading: Mark 14:53-72**

Song: What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 2)

*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 frown,*

*Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,*

*Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.*

**Fifth Reading: Mark 15:1-20**

Song: Were You There? (verse 1)

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

**Sixth Reading: Mark 15:21-32**

Song: Were You There? (verse 2)

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

**Seventh Reading: Mark 15:33-47**

Silent Reflection\*

*(turn off the lights in your room and keep them off for the last song)*

Song: Were You There? (verse 3)

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

**Benediction (John 1:1-5)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Go in peace. Amen.

This concludes our Maundy Thursday service. Normally, we would depart in silence, to hold on to the solemnity of this moment. But because this is, as I quote from others, the Lentiest Lent I have ever Lented, I do invite you if you wish to remain on the call and share greetings with each other as I unmute you.