



### Sharing the Meal

Among friends, gathered around a table, as they shared a meal as we have done, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples, promising that as they ate, they would share in his life and death and resurrection. As we share it now, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always. And he also shared a cup of wine, offering them a taste of the new covenant of life sealed in his life. As we share it now, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always. So come on this holy night. Share this holy meal. Remember our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep the feast now and always.

### Thanksgiving after Communion:

**Thank you, God, for uniting us with Jesus in this holy mystery. We are no longer our own, but yours. So send us, and put us to leading and serving, loving as you have loved us wherever we go. Amen.**

**Hymn # 300**      *We Are One in the Spirit*

This is the night of love. Go forth in the strength of this feast, in the care of this community, and with the love and blessing of our Triune God. **Amen.**

**Postlude**      *It is Well with My Soul*      P. Bliss  
~June Cannon- flute, Tessa Schuster-cello.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Maundy Thursday Service**  
**April 17, 2025 7:00 AM**  
**Building Relationships; Sharing God's Love**

### *Entrance Welcoming Penitents*

### Prelude

*Ständchen*

Schubert.

~June Cannon- flute, Tessa Schuster- cello.

We join a solemn journey of three days  
that has changed the world and our own lives.  
Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey  
since his first followers took it, long ago.

This is the night of love.

On the night Jesus took a towel and basin,  
and washed his disciples' feet.  
On this night he told them to do the same for  
Others to show their love for him  
and for one another. This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus have invited those  
preparing for baptism to begin with them a solemn  
vigil of prayer and fasting until the day of Christ's  
resurrection is fulfilled. This is the night of love.

On this night, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with  
his followers for the last time, and invited them to remember  
him to encounter him anew, whenever they did the same.  
This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus have welcomed those who  
have returned to the way of Jesus after a time of wandering  
and a journey of returning. This is the night of love.



This is the night of love. And so, on this night,  
we welcome the penitent --  
all here have wandered- -  
and invite all preparing --  
all here are still learning --  
to join us in hearing and obeying  
the commandment of our Master  
and to feast at his table,  
that we may love one another  
as he has loved us.  
Come, ye sinners.  
Come, ye thirsty.  
Come, ye weary.  
Come to the night of love.



**Hymn # 490**      *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

**Lectio, Reflectio and Collectio: Inviting All to Listen and Obey the Spirit**

**Reading**                      John 13:1-7, 12-16, 34-35

**Hymn # 202**                      *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

This is the night of love.  
And this is the table of love.  
At this table, Christ, who loves us, is with us.

**He is with us, and we are his. We belong to God.**

And so we pray:  
**We are yours, all yours, blessed Triune God,  
all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise,  
all our fears, all our grumbling, all our hesitations,  
all our loves, all our joys, all our passions,  
we give them all to you, with bodies, and minds and  
voices. Yours, all yours!**

Remembering this last and first meal, we move from this incredible feast to another glorious meal. So let us sing as we make our way to this feast.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of all time and all creation, we thank you for your work in our world, for good food and good friends, for the time to share a bountiful meal and the space to worship you. All that we have and all that we are comes from you. Most of all, this night we thank you for Jesus Christ, for the faithful and righteous life that he lived, for the journey he made during this week that we celebrate from exalted king to crucified lord, and for the meal that he shared with his disciples before he was killed, where he revealed and shared his full self with those who cared for him. Be present with us now, by the power of your Spirit, that once again this meal might be a chance for us to share in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May this bread be for us the body of Christ, this cup be the blood of our Lord, and the sharing of this feast our participation in that meal of so long ago. Strengthen us by this meal for the journey ahead, that we might continue to walk with Christ along the road of his passion and death as we await his rising on Easter and to the fullness of new life. Through Christ, who shares this table with us even now, we pray. Amen.



## Communion

### Invitation to the Table

The night may have been much like tonight; the room, much like this one; the people, much like us, too.

#### Matthew tells it like this:

*On the first day of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.” While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”*

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Yours the blessing, yours the praise,  
from the unimaginable silence before the big bang,  
beyond the farthest reaches of time and space we  
may ever find, from infinity to infinity, everlasting to  
everlasting, you are God, boundless in love and power.

**What are we that you should notice us?  
What are we that you should love us?  
What are we what you should call us into  
covenant with you, a covenant we continually  
broke and you continuously sustained?  
Mercy! How full of mercy!**

How can we but praise you,  
joining our voices with the song  
of angels and saints, seraphim and martyrs,  
strangers and family in every generation:

**Jesus Christ, who comes in our God's name, you are  
worthy, worthy! Lamb of God for all creation slain,  
you are worthy, worthy! Hosanna to our King!  
Hosanna to our King!**

You are holy, O God!  
You are worthy, O Christ!  
Worthy in your birth! Worthy in your living!

**Worthy in your loving! Worthy in your serving!**

Worthy! Worthy! Worthy!  
You preached good news that God's kingdom has drawn near  
and gathered disciples, then and now, to learn and show the world  
what life in God's reign means: healing for the sick. new life for  
the dead, cleansing for the lepers, sight for the blinded,  
food for the hungry, freedom for the possessed,  
love poured out for all.



**Worthy the night you took a towel and basin,  
washed your disciples' feet, and taught them  
to do likewise.**

**Special Music:**                      *When You Prayed Beneath the Trees*                      Lloyd Larson  
   ~Westminster Choir, Simon Doong- clarinet,  
   June Cannon- flute, Tessa Schuster- cello.

*When you prayed beneath the trees, it was for me, O Lord;  
when you cried upon your knees, how could it be, O Lord?  
When in blood and sweat and tears, you dismissed you final fears,  
when you faced the soldiers' spears, you stood for me, O Lord.*

*When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord;  
when it seemed like your defeat, they could not see, O Lord!  
When you faced the mob alone, you were silent as a stone,  
and a tree became your throne; you came for me, for me, O Lord.*

*when you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord;  
when you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord;  
When they lifted you on high, and they nailed you up to die,  
and when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, for me, O Lord.*

Worthy too, the same night we betrayed you,  
when you took the bread, blessed it and broke it,  
and gave it to your disciples. Worthy when you told them,  
"This is my body broken for you. Remember me."

**We remember.**

Worthy when you took the cup, praised God and shared it,  
and worthy when you said, "This is my blood of the new  
covenant for you. Remember me."

**We remember.**

We remember, and we praise you with our lives and these gifts of  
bread and wine, proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come upon us, Holy Spirit.

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit.**

Come upon these gifts.

**Come upon these gifts.**

Make them be for us Christ's body, Christ's blood.

**Make us one body in Christ enlivened in love by his blood.**

One in heart, one in mind, one in you, Holy Spirit,

as you move us to pray for the church and the world:

That we may proclaim the gospel boldly:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That healing may come for people who are sick, and peoples  
who are torn and weary:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That many dead and left for dead may be raised, and death itself vanquished:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are unclean may receive your cleansing grace:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are possessed, oppressed, distressed, depressed and downcast  
may be set free at last.

**Hear us, Lord.**

That we may love one another, and all your creation, as you have loved us.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Even so, come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit,

on this night, and every night

until we eat it new at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

**All blessing, honor, glory and power be yours, Holy**

**Triune God, now and forever. Amen!**