



MAUNDY THURSDAY

LOVE

ONE ANOTHER

AS I

HAVE LOVED

YOU.

JOHN 13:34

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire

April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m.

Let us be gathered in silence so that those who enter with us may pause, pray, and prepare for worship.

GATHERING WORDS

PRELUDE

Psalm Prelude: De Profundis
("Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord," Psalm 130:1)

Fenton Groden

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God,

We are caught in the tension between
light and shadow, death and resurrection.

You spoke the world into being,
you illuminated the universe by your very speech,
then filled the void with life.

Indeed, you have filled the void
of darkness and death,
the empty promises of the abyss,
with new life and new creation.

We look to you in the space between this world and your world,
longing for the fulfillment of your word
in the work of the Holy Spirit
and the life and reign of Christ.

Dear God in this holiest week we truly are in a liminal space
A transitional space
A time in between what was and what will be
We feel your comforting presence with us
As we like the disciples hide away in our homes
But may we not do so out of fear
But out of love.
Out of love for our family and friends
Love for our neighbor
Love for the stranger

Love for the most vulnerable among us
We honor the mandate – the commandment that Jesus gave us,
To love one another, as he loved us.
Be with us, O God, in our worship, in our gathering,
No matter where we are this evening.
And be with us as we continue our journey to the cross.
Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-9, 12-15, 34-35

Now 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.

The evil one had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

Then 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.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus 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."

For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After 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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said,

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 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."

MAUNDY THURSDAY MESSAGE

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Kind and gentle Jesus, we give you thanks for this bread and cup, this place and time. When the night is harsh and bitter, may we still be found walking beside you. As you challenge both power and pride, help us to contemplate your courageous acts. Bring us, despite our resistance, to the foot of the cross. And there may we learn to be merciful, in your name. Amen.

BELL SOLO

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Wendy Valeri

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Tenebrae is the Latin word for “darkness” and has come to be the traditional name of the service of extinguishing of the lights in commemoration of the final events in Jesus’ life. During the service of Tenebrae, the sanctuary is gradually darkened., After each reading, a candle is extinguished. Finally, the church is left in nearly total darkness as the Christ candle is extinguished to mark the death of Christ.

- I. The Shadow of Betrayal – Matthew 26:20-25
- II. The Shadow of Desertion – Matthew 26:31-35
- III. The Agony of the Soul – Luke 22:39-44
- IV. The Unshared Vigil – Mark 14:32-41
- V. The Betrayal – Mark 14:43-49
- VI. The Shadow of Accusation – Matthew 26:57, 59-66
- VII. Before Pilate – Mark 15:1-15
- VIII. The Shadow of the Cross – Mark 15:16-20

THE DRAPING OF THE CROSS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”**

We, the members of the Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, believe God’s Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ call us to love all our neighbors as we would want to be loved. We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the full life and ministry of our church.

We welcome each individual as a child of God. As covenant members of Christ’s church, we celebrate God’s love for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all of the other diverse attributes woven into the fabric of humankind.

With God’s grace, we invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our church.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email info@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Visit our church’s website at www.ccamherst.org, and follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

Current Reopening Information: Are you wondering where things stand? Through the members section on our website, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

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Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director