



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 2, 2026

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.*

PRELUDE

*Picardy (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)*

Henry Coleman

GATHERING WORDS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

One: We are Jesus' disciples,  
following him as he moves toward the cross.

**Many: As he kneels to wash the dust from the feet of his friends.  
As he breaks bread and pours the cup one last time.**

One: We are Jesus' disciples,  
longing to be faithful as the night grows dark.

**Many: As betrayers loom.  
As the powers that oppose the way of Christ press in around us.**

One: We are Jesus' disciples,  
struggling to love and forgive as Jesus did.

**Many: As he broke bread with those who would abandon him.  
As he forgave those who turned against him.**

One: We are Jesus' disciples,  
loving mercy, acting justly, walking humbly in his footsteps.

**Many: We are Jesus' disciples,  
gathered here to worship our God:  
Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

No. 94

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*The congregation may be seated.*

LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Surely not us, Lord? Surely not.

**Many: Surely we are not the one who will deny or betray you.**

One: It's someone else who denies knowing you,

**Many: someone else who uses you for their own gain,**

One: someone else who wants to control you.

**Many: Surely not us.**

One: For the times when we deny our faults...

**Many: For the times we point fingers to cover up our own wrong...**

One: For the times we think of ourselves more highly than we ought...

**Many: Forgive us.**

One: For the times we have betrayed you with our words—

**Many: speaking thoughtlessly, hurting someone to get a laugh,**

One: denying that your call extends to every part of our lives...

**Many: Forgive us.**

One: For the times we have betrayed you with our actions—

**Many: living as if you are confined to this sanctuary**

One: walking away from those in need, literally and ideologically...

**Many: Forgive us.**

One: For the times we have betrayed you with our hearts—

**Many: putting you far down our priority lists,**

One: longing for our way to be your way...

**Many: Forgive us.**

One: Surely not us, Lord?

**Many: Yet you have said it is so.**

One: This truth hurts us, O God, and yet we believe—

**Many: We believe that you have the power to transform us.**

One: We believe that your grace is enough.

**Many: We believe that your love is greater than we can imagine.**

One: We believe that you are the Way, the Life, and the Truth—

**Many: and this truth sets us free. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love (Based on Pavanne)*

Chancel Choir

Gabriel Faure,

arr. Allan Robert Petker

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 devil 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!"

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.

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

## ORGAN MEDITATION

*There is a Green Hill Far Away*

Gilbert M. Martin

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*The congregation is invited forward to receive communion. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free. The juice is served in individual cups. Please place your empty cup in the tray at the end of communion table. All are welcome to join in receiving this sacrament.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**One:** We gather at this table and remember that on Jesus' last night on earth, he gathered with his disciples and shared in an ordinary meal that had extraordinary implications.

**Many:** **For at this table, Jesus broke bread with the one who betrayed him, with the one who denied him, with those who fled from him in his time of need.**

**One:** It would not have been God's table if they hadn't all been gathered around it: the betrayer and the friend, the arrogant and the humble, the faithful and the fickle.

**Many:** **The promise is that when we are all together, when we break the bread and pour the cup, we will experience God's love made real and our world made whole.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

ORGAN MEDITATION

*Lenten Meditation*

Gerald Peterson

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 to the foot of the cross, despite our resistance. And there may we learn to be merciful, in your name. Amen.**

HYMN (seated)

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

No. 85

## 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 Jesus.*

I. The Shadow of Betrayal – Matthew 26:20-25

II. The Shadow of Desertion – Matthew 26:31-35

ORGAN MEDITATION

*Cantabile Sacra 51*  
*("He was despised and rejected of men")*

Paul F. Page

III. The Agony of Soul – Luke 22:39-46

IV. The Betrayal – Mark 14:43-49

ORGAN MEDITATION

*Good Friday Soliloquy*

Rex Koury

V. The Shadow of Accusation – Matthew 26:57, 59-66

VI. Before Pilate – Mark 15:1-15

ORGAN MEDITATION

*The Last Hours*

Rex Koury

VII. The Shadow of the Cross – Mark 15:16-20

VIII. Jesus Breathes His Last – Luke 23:33-35, 44-47

SOLO

*Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*  
Becky Bolin, soloist

Traditional

THE DARKNESS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SILENT DISPERSAL OF THE DISCIPLES

*Once the pastors have withdrawn, all are encouraged to leave in silence.*

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service  
obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

## PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Mark Baddeley, Kathleen Bouchard, Roger Hooper, Sally Hooper,

Sue Ruggiero, Anita Swanson, John Swanson, Doug Topliffe

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Tenebrae Readers

Videographer



## Easter Worship Services Sunday, April 5

**7:00 a.m.** Sunrise Service on the Amherst village green.  
Celebrate the Resurrection at daybreak  
followed by coffee and donuts on the green.

**10:00 a.m.** Easter celebration service in our sanctuary  
with our Chancel and Bell Choirs.  
Join us as we praise God with a joyful noise!

*Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026*