



MAUNDY THURSDAY  
SERVICE of COMMUNION  
and TENEBRAE

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245

319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 17, 2025  
MAUNDY THURSDAY

*We will celebrate the sacrament of communion in our worship tonight. If you are joining the worship service from home, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink before the service begins. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or something as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.*

“When we celebrate the Meal, Christ brings us together with people whom we would never congregate with if we were to create our own community of love among like-minded people. The only thing that brings us together is our common participation in Christ’s gift, our common need for him, our common need for sticking together in the night of deliverance and liberation.”

Krister Stendahl

PRELUDE

GATHERING

As we gather this evening, we are reminded that where two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ, Jesus promises to be in their midst.

No matter who you are, whether you are here for an evening or a lifetime, Christ welcomes all of us as friends.

**Friends in Christ: It is Maundy Thursday, the day of the new commandment—that we should love one another.**

On this night we remember the events that make us who we are:

**The meal Jesus shared with his disciples and gave to all who follow him.**

**The example of Jesus kneeling to wash the feet of others.**

**The betrayal and desertion of Jesus by those closest to him.**

**His faithfulness to death, even death on a cross.**

On this night we receive the things that nourish who we are:

**The bread broken and wine poured out for us and for all people.**

**The good news that even in the darkest hour**

**Christ is risen and goes before us.**

\*HYMN 353 “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here” (vs. 1-4)

**Great God, Your love has called us here**

**As we, by love, for love were made.**

**Your living likeness still we bear,**

**Though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.**

**We come, with all our heart and mind**

**Your call to hear, Your love to find.**

**We come with self-inflicted pains  
Of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
Half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
By social forces swept along,  
By powers and systems close confined,  
Yet seeking hope for humankind.**

**Great God, in Christ You call our name  
and then receive us as Your own,  
Not through some merit, right or claim,  
But by Your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat  
And find You kneeling at our feet.**

**Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
And humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
And show how grandly love intends  
To work till all creation sings,  
To fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Ever gracious God, we seek your presence in our midst this evening.  
We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world.  
We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits.  
Remind us in the breaking of the bread of our need and of your sufficiency.  
Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness.  
Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in faithfulness and  
thanksgiving.  
As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Christ Jesus, our  
friend and redeemer. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#353, vs. 5)**

**Great God, in Christ You set us free  
Your life to live, Your joy to share.  
Give us Your Spirit's liberty  
To turn from guilt and dull despair  
And offer all that faith can do  
While love is making all things new**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**Luke 22:19-20**

**John 13: 34-35**

## MEDITATION BEFORE COMMUNION

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### INVITATION

HYMN 508 (vs. 1, 2, & 4) "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

#### PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### SHARING THE SUPPER TOGETHER

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Psalm 103: 1-2)

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**and forget not all God's benefits. Amen.**

\*HYMN 83 "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
How passing thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!**

**For us baptized, for us He bore  
His holy fast and hungered sore;  
For us temptations sharp He knew,  
For us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us to evil power betrayed,  
Scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death,  
For us gave up His dying breath.**

**For us He rose from death again;  
For us He went on high to reign;  
For us He sent His Spirit here,  
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.**

**All glory to our Lord and God  
For love so deep, so high, so broad:  
The Trinity whom we adore  
Forever and forevermore.**

## TENEBRAE: THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL    Matthew 26:20-25    Allan Hogue

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION    Matthew 26:31-35    Rebecca Weatherford

HYMN 97 (vs. 1)    “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

**Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All that feel the tempter’s power;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away,  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray**

THE UNSHARED VIGIL    Mark 14:37-41    Bryan Clemons

THE ARREST IN THE GARDEN    John 18:2-5    Alfrieta Monagan

HYMN 86 (vs. 1 & 2)    “When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son”

**“When we are tempted to deny your Son; because we fear the anger of the world,  
And we are few who hear the insults hurled, your will, O God, be done.**

**When we are tempted to betray your Son, because he leads us in a harder way,  
And makes demands we do not want to pay, your will, O God, be done.**

THE DENIAL OF PETER    Matthew 26:69-75    Chuck Dayton

IN THE JUDGMENT HALL    Matthew 27:11-14, 26b    Laurie Stunz

HYMN 85 (vs. 1)    “What Wondrous Love Is This”

**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 heavy cross,  
For my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul.**

THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS    Mark 15:16-20    Barb Sisley

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

THE SEALING OF THE TOMB

DARKNESS

SOLO    “Were You There”

There is no benediction. Our worship continues on Good Friday at noon. You may stay in the sanctuary for as long as you like. The congregation is asked to leave quietly.

Opening Prayer from Allen Happe. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, Copyright © 1990 The Pilgrim Press.

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*Maundy* is derived from the Latin *mandatum*, which means “to command.” The word refers to the “New Commandment” to love one another that Jesus gave to the disciples at the supper on this Thursday, the night before his death. As we worship in these days, we do not pretend that we do not know what will happen to the crucified Jesus. All through these days the victory of Christ is contemplated and the resurrection is proclaimed.

*Tenebrae* is the Latin term for “shadows.” It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. It is historically associated with the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week, with the readings on those evenings commemorating the events of the following day. On Wednesday the readings commemorated the Last Supper and the betrayal and arrest of Jesus; on Thursday, Christ’s passion, trial, and death; and on Friday, Christ’s burial and the destitution of the disciples. Tonight, those events are combined in one service.

Friday, April 18

Good Friday Worship Service

Noon

Sunday, April 20

Easter Breakfast      Rockwood Hall, beginning at 8:00

Festival Easter Service with Brass and Choir      10:15 a.m.