



Maundy
Thursday



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

Call to Worship

Leader: From busy weekday lives we pause this hour, gathered as friends, to remember Jesus’ last earthly night with his disciples.

All: **May we listen for God’s invitations to personal discipleship and service; to communion with one another and with the Holy One.**

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

Hymn of Praise “O Sacred Head now Wounded” — #286 UMH

Opening Prayer

Holy God, remind us on this special day of the many ways we know you: as strong deliverer, as humble servant, as the One who bids us love one another, that the world might know you. Lead us not only to the beauty of solitary reflection but also to community, as we remember together your words and your example. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Lesson Psalm 116:12-19 NRSV

12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord; 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. 16 O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. 17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. 18 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, 19 in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Hymn “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee” — #623 UMH

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, even now we do not know how far we have turned away from you. Bring us back. Send your Spirit like a strong wind into our lives; disturb our complacency, expose our faults, drive out our pride and selfishness. Help us put right the things we have done wrong. Make us willing to forgive those who have wronged or hurt us. Clear away our grudges and bitterness. Demolish the walls we have built between us. Freshen our lives with your presence. Help us to live in love and peace with all people. We pray in the name of the one who kept loving us, even in death. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: God of the lost and the found, surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise; for day after day we look for you, and day after day we find you: in the laughter of children, in the sun rising over the horizon, in the flowers of spring.

Our seeking does not go unanswered, and for that we are grateful.

So first and foremost, we come to you in prayer to say thank you, for when we're seeking beauty, you give us mountains and freckles, green eyes and brown eyes. When we're looking for reason to hope, you give us rainbows after the storm, and candles flickering in the window. When we're seeking peace, you give us three part harmony and the sound of the rain. And when we're seeking justice, your life reminds us that everyone is welcome at your Table, and none shall be turned away.

For all these reminders we are deeply grateful. And yet, gracious God, our seeking does not stop. For even though your fingerprints are all over this world, we are not yet at your promised day.

So in addition to our gratitude, we also pray today for conviction. Do not let us get comfortable with half-hearted seeking. Do not let us grow numb to the suffering of this world. Make us relentless in our pursuit of justice—relentless in our consoling of the grieving, in our welcoming of the stranger, and in the feeding of the hungry.

Like a dog intently following a scent, may we walk toward your kingdom, never giving up, never wandering off the path.

And as we see and as we seek, pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread and cup. May this meal be the nourishment we need to continue seeking you in the world.

Until your promised day, we will pray. Until your promised day, we will seek, saying:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Leader: God of manna and mustard seeds, we came to this Table hungry and we leave feeling full—full of hope, full of promise, full of what could be.

All: **For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table, but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be: in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed.**

Leader: Is there anything holier than that? So thank you for nourishing our curiosity alongside our spirit and our conviction.

All: **May we always seek you the way you seek after us. With grateful hearts we pray, amen.**

Anthem

Scripture Lesson John 13:31-35 NRSV

Scripture Lesson John 14:1-7 NRSV

Scripture Lesson John 14:15-21 NRSV

Scripture Lesson John 16:16-22 NRSV

Scripture Lesson John 17:1-10 NRSV

Scripture Lesson John 17:20-18:1 NRSV

Hymn “O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done” — #287 UMH

Benediction

Postlude