

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

139 North Fourth Street

Emmaus, Pennsylvania

April 21, 2011

Service for Maundy Thursday

7:30 P.M.

The People of God Gather For Worship

Thought for Meditation: "All that is not eternal is eternally out of date."
C.S. Lewis

Communion Meditation

...All May Stand...

Processional Hymn: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" #211

Greeting

Call to Worship

Leader: We are gathered in the presence of God who asks us to choose between life and death, between blessing and curse.

People: We are gathered like the people of Israel, who were challenged to choose the way of life.

Leader: Like them, we often have the freedom each day

People: Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day to begin anew by the grace of God.

Leader: By our presence here, we are saying that we choose life.

All: Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place. Amen.

The People of God Confess Their Sins

Act of Confession:

Leader: Brothers and sisters, we are called to be children of the day and not children of the night.

People: Let us approach the throne of grace that we may receive mercy.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Silence

Kyrie:

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you: God is light.

All: If we walk in the light as Christ is in the light, we have communion with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

Hymn of Praise: "Amazing Grace" (Verse 1)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

...Please Be Seated...

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Sharing our Maundy Thursday Sacrifice

Offertory

Senior Choir Anthem: "Come To the Table"

Martin

Prayer

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

#202

Order of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Communion Prayer

Leader: Blessed are you, O God. You made bread to strengthen us. You set aside this bread as a sign of your son's broken body. In breaking it may we participate in the reconciliation of Christ.

People: **May Christ's body be the bread of our souls, to give us strength to continue our pilgrimage, being made worthy to sit with all the redeemed at the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

All: **Hear us, O God, through our mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O God. You made the vine to strengthen us. You set aside this cup as a sign of your Son's shed blood. In drinking the cup, may we participate in the blood of Christ.

People: **May Christ's blood make us strong to drink the cup of suffering without complaint, for Jesus' sake, in the hope that we shall drink wine in your Kingdom.**

All: **Hear us, O God, for the sake of your eternal love. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Filling the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup (The center ring of communion glasses is filled with grape juice and the outer ring with wine.)

...Please Stand...

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We thank you, holy God, for giving us this meal, shared in the Spirit, which sustains us with the food and drink of your life. Grace our lives that we may at the last time come to share

in the heavenly banquet of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Thanksgiving "Let Us Break Bread" (Verse 3)

"Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me."

...Please Be Seated...

A Time for Silence

Hymn: "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

#196

Readings and Extinguishing of Lights

1st Reading - Matthew 26:20-25

Kayli Freeman

2nd Reading - Matthew 26:31-35

Pastor Curt

3rd Reading - Luke 22:39-44

Jackie Knappenberger

4th Reading - Mark 14:32-41

Pastor Edgar

5th Reading - John 17:1-6

Linda Hengeveld

6th Reading - John 17:15-22

Adele Schaffer

7th Reading - John 18:1-5

Harold Huber

8th Reading - Mark 15:16-20

Pastor Paul

Lord's Prayer:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

The Congregation leaves in reverent silence from the rear of the sanctuary.

Shall we follow Him to Gethsemane.

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Acolytes: Emily Drabick, Brian Lance
Greeters: George Baver, Adele Shaffer, Bonnie Walsh
Ushers: Larry Delhagen, Russell Drabick, Tom Capehart,
Jim Beers, Marty Beers, Dave Davis, Wendy
Moyer-Drabick, Pat Roth
Sound System: Richard Miller

Tonight is Maundy Thursday. Maundy is the English form of the Latin word meaning commandment. Jesus' new commandment to "love one another even as I have loved you" is the focus of Maundy Thursday. This love is demonstrated in Jesus' example of servanthood and the gift of Jesus' self in Holy Communion.

Communion

We invite to the Lord's Table "all baptized members of the Christian Church, who look to the Lord Jesus for righteousness and salvation, and who desire to possess His Spirit and walk in His ways." When the communion trays are distributed, you will see the cups in the center have white grape juice. The other cups have wine. You may choose whichever one you prefer. It is our custom for members to wait until all have been served, and then the pastor will invite all to commune. Please remember to complete a communion card today.

The **Nursery** is located through the door at the rear of the Sanctuary and down the hallway to the left. It is not staffed tonight, but the room is open and available for parents supervising their own children.

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by David and Linda Delong in loving memory of Frances and Earl Cope, Leo H. Delong Sr., Katherine Delong and Dorothy Fessler.

Good Friday Service - 7:30 P.M.

Once again you will experience that Jesus is left alone and the light of the world is extinguished.

Please join us for Services at St. John's on Easter Morning.

8:00 am – Early Service- Holy Communion
9:15 am – Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 am – Cradle Roll Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am – Festival of the Resurrection - Holy Communion

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Paul W Knappenberger, Senior Pastor,
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