



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

If you are visiting us for the first time, welcome!
Thank you for joining us, we're happy you are here.

Please make sure to sign in in the Narthex and include your name and email so we can keep you updated on upcoming events and special worship services.

*Please stand if you are able and comfortable

Congregation reads text in bold print

In our liturgy, A: is all our voices. L: is the liturgist's voice P: is the Pastor's voice

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Live Stream Begins

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wendy Bauer, Liturgist

One: The week has come to wrestle with the story.

Many: The week has come to reveal the profane.

One: The day has come to embody the sacred.

Many: The day has come to reflect on love.

One: The hour has come to remember the story.

Many: The hour has come to bring peace to our souls.

Hymn

“Jesu, Jesu”

No. 600

INVOCATION

Holy God, Companion in the Room,

We enter the space where the story begins. As evening extinguishes daylight, we begin the task of remembering the story. Our minds race as we place ourselves around the table with Christ. Our souls become quieter as the bread is broken and the cup is poured. May we recall tonight's story as one that has drawn us together over time.. May the readings and rituals bless our heavy hearts worn down by this world. Heal us with each word, each sense, each breath. Amen.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Holy Deliverer,

Tonight, we have reached the all-too-familiar story of the eve before the execution. While there are times when we relate very well to Jesus in this story, we forget that we have been Judas, Peter, and the disciples. We have allowed ourselves to become part of someone's story of pain. Our words have pierced another's hearts. We have betrayed our neighbor instead of filling this world and another's soul with love. Instead of living with the heaviness of guilt, allow us to create peace around us and within us. Invite us to share our repentance and to reconcile whenever possible. May we live into the mandate to love one another as you love us. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Through the redeeming love of Christ, God has poured grace upon us. May the mercy of God transform us into bearers of love in a wounded world. Amen.

Please be seated.

HAND WASHING AND BLESSING RITUAL

This is a blessing of the hands. In our world today, our hands are used to care for us and others, prepare food, extend a greeting, and work – whether laboring in the fields, manufacturing items, or administration. Our work provides for others and ourselves, extending the love of Christ in our world.

Please place your hands over the basin and we will pour water over your hands.

A Blessing in the Washing of Hands

God of Blessings,

Like water, your grace flows freely over us,

Releasing the shame of the past,

Refreshing us for the future.

Such restoration is a balm to our spirits.

May these hands be a conduit of your love into the world.

May they build systems and spaces of care.

May they deliver words of kindness across the virtual universe,

And may they provide the necessities to our neighbors in need.

Allow the bounty of your blessings which passes through our hands
To alleviate heartbreak and illuminate beauty
As we wander throughout your kin-dom.
Amen.

Time for Silent Prayer ~ Pastoral Prayer

The 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 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 Through Song

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

No 306

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; incline thine ear to us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

John 13:1-17

13:1 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.

13:2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper

13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God,

13:4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

13:5 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.

13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

13:7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

13:8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

13:9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

13:10 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."

13:11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

13:12 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?"

13:13 You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am.

13:14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

13:15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

13:16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

13:17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Message **"I Have Set You an Example"**

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

*Affirmation of Faith – "The Apostles' Creed" **All speak together.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(* means 'universal')

*Hymn

"In Remembrance of Me"

No. 403

*Invitation to the Offering

How will we share our gifts with the world? Are they easy to contribute, or do they reach into us and challenge us to risk what we have? May our giving of talents, time, and treasures beckon us to step outside of our comfort to create God's Realm of Love.

*Doxology (Praise)

No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Divine Water of Love,

Even when the workings of the world are harsh, you are present. Even when shame rattles our souls, you pour goodness and mercy upon us. May we live into the command of Christ: love one another as Christ loved us. Through our actions, our faith comes alive and our neighbors experience Divine love in new ways. Amen.

Silence

COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation

P: God loves you!

A: And the Holy One loves you.

P: Open wide your souls.

A: In our vulnerability, we reveal our most authentic selves to God.

P: May we embrace the mandate of Christ.

A: In Christ's words we celebrate our love for one another.

Communion Prayer

Divine Gatherer of Friends,

There is beauty in this evening. From tonight's sunset to the embracing of friends, a space like this reminds us of an upstairs room with loved ones.

A: Yet sometimes this annual gathering as this reminds us of a time of betrayal, of denial, of pain. May the words and rituals tonight be a healing salve. May this time of reflection give us pause from the worries of the world. May this space renew our weary souls and this sacrament revive our spirits, leading us to share the love of God and build God's Realm around us.

Each time we remember this holy night, we recall the story of the meal. It was on this night of love and betrayal that Jesus took a loaf of bread. After he blessed the bread, he broke the bread, and gave it to his friends. "This is my body," he said to them. "Remember me each time you break and eat the bread."

And after supper, Jesus took the cup filled with the fruit of the vine. He spoke to his followers, "This is the cup of the new covenant. As often as you drink from this cup, do this in remembrance of me."

Holy Spirit, Winds of Healing, encircle these elements tonight. Surround us with your care, mend the wounds from betrayals, and allow this meal to soothe our heavy hearts.

A: This is the sacramental meal of Christ for all God's children. No matter where you are on the path of life, each of you are welcome at this table.

Distribution of Communion

P: Come. Find your place at this table, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace. God has given Himself for us!

Communion Anthem "*Remember, Remember Me*" by Schrader

***Prayer of Gratitude**

A: Holy One, with gratitude, we celebrate this space and time with your children. With thanksgiving, we remember Jesus the Christ, the one who shared light with the world, even when the shadows lengthened. Give us strength to reenter this world sharing love and grace to our neighbors around us. Amen.

*Hymn "*Abide with Me*" No. 636

***Benediction**

P: As we head into the night, may we commune with God our fears and frustrations. May we reach out to our neighbors as we yearn to settle our souls. May we know the strength of the Holy Spirit as we endure moments of trial and moments of joy. Amen.

*Benediction Response

**God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again. Amen.**

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ!

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Current Office Hours: W, Th, & Fri. 10am – 2pm (W & Th remotely) ~ Sat 9-11am + 513-661-3745

In case of pastoral care emergency, please call the office, Deb Boland,

or Pastor Teri Lynn at 513-250-6460

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