

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP  
APRIL 1, 2021 · 7:00 P.M.

Chiming of the Hour

*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.*

Welcome – Dan Koger

Prelude – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”.....Frederick C. Maker

*Joan John, Piano*

**A TIME OF REFLECTION**

Call to Worship.....Stephanie Horton

Do you remember your last supper before the pandemic? The last meal you had out at a restaurant with friends? The last meal before fear and anxiety ran the conversation?

If you had known it was your last, would you have lingered? Would you have ordered dessert? Would you have held your friends’ hands and told them how much you loved them? If you had known, would you have washed their feet?

**Tonight we gather together, because this night was the beginning of the end. This night was Jesus’ last supper with his disciples. Take a moment to imagine how Jesus must have felt.**

*Pause for silence...*

Friends, with all of this in mind, I invite you to join me in our opening words:

**Tonight, we will hear, again and again, of a love that knows no bounds. May we be fully present here. May we worship holy God.**

Prayer.....Stephanie Horton

Jesus of Nazareth, if the disciples had known that the last supper would be their last meal with you before the crucifixion, I bet they would have listened differently. I bet they would have put down their petty disagreements and leaned in to hear every word you said.

Jesus of Nazareth, we want to listen like that. We want to listen like tonight might be the last time you speak. We want to listen like everything could change tomorrow. We want to listen like our souls depend on it. So gracious God, clear away anything in us that might distract. Clear away anything in us that might hinder our hearing and receiving of your word. We are listening. With hope and honesty we pray. Amen.

Reading of the Gospel According to John and Mark.....Robyn Schollhammer

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he was

wearing. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You don’t understand what I’m doing now, but you will understand later.” “No!” Peter said. “You will never wash my feet!” Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t have a place with me.” Simon Peter said, “Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!”

After he washed the disciples’ feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, “Do you know what I’ve done for you? If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet.

“You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

### GATHERING AT THE TABLE

Call to Confession.....Kim Miller

The closer we get to the crucifixion, the more earnest our prayers of confession feel. For we know that what was done to Jesus - betrayal, humiliation, violence, and death are things we do to each other all the time.

**So with a deep hope for transformation, we pray. Trusting that the God who holds the stars in the sky is holding us tonight. Let us confess together:**

Prayer of Confession.....Kim Miller

Holy God who holds us together, if I were to place myself at your table, I would probably be Peter – misunderstanding your radical hospitality, sticking to the rules, arguing what I do and don’t deserve.

**Then again, it’s possible that I’d be Judas - the one who betrayed you, the one who failed to see the good right in front of him, the one who might have thought he wasn’t worthy of your love.**

If I were to place myself at your table, it’s possible I would be one of the unnamed disciples - watching, but not speaking, silently missing the opportunity to tell you what I believe and how much I love you.

**If I were to place myself at your table, I am confident that I would have made the same mistakes Your well-intentioned disciples made. There is no surprise there.**

What is surprising is that I know you would have washed my feet nonetheless. So forgive me, God. Wash not just my feet, but my hands and my head also. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness.....Dan Koger

Friends in Christ, Jesus knew that Peter would deny. He knew that Judas would betray, and he knew the disciples would hide in fear. And still – and still - he invited them in.

He washed their feet, and he fed them. Friends, we worship the living Christ whose love shocks, surprises, and far exceeds our understanding of love. So may this story tonight remind us:

**No matter who we are, no matter where we go, no matter how great our mistakes or regrets are in life, we will always be invited in and held together by the Living God. Again and again, we are forgiven. Again and again, we are held. Amen.**

Communion Reading According to the Gospel of Mark and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.....Marshall Bolton

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this to remember me." He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do this to remember me."

The Lord's Table,,,Dan Koger

Every time we eat the bread, our brokenness is made whole. Every time we drink the Cup, we receive unceasing grace. Every time we come to the Table, we remember that mystery called faith.

*The Bread of Life and the Cup of Love*

### **TENEBRAE SERVICE OF SHADOWS**

Instrumental Reflection ..... "Were You There?" ..... WERE YOU THERE  
(Joan John, Piano; Robin Duncan, Guitar)

The Shadow of Betrayal according to the Gospel of Matthew.....Leslie Koger

That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating he said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me." Deeply saddened, each one said to him, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?" He replied, "The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Son of Man goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Son of Man. It would have been better for him if he had never been born." Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You said it."

The Shadow of Desertion according to the Gospel of Matthew.....Rick Schollhammer

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Tonight you will all become deserters because of me. This is because it is written, I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions. But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you to Galilee." Peter replied, "If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble." Jesus said to him, "I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times." Peter said, "Even if I must die alongside you, I won't deny you." All the disciples said the same thing.

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, "Stay here while I go and pray over there." When he took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, "I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here and keep alert with me." Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it's possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want."

He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” A second time he went away and prayed, “My Father, if it’s not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.”

Again he came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were heavy with sleep. But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time. Then he came to his disciples and said to them, “Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Son of Man to be betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

Anthem – “When You Prayed Beneath the Tree”.....Churchland Baptist Quartet

The Shadow of the Trial according to the Gospel of Mark.....Lynne Robinson

They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and legal experts gathered. Peter followed him from a distance, right into the high priest’s courtyard. He was sitting with the guards, warming himself by the fire. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they couldn’t find any. Many brought false testimony against him, but they contradicted each other. Some stood to offer false witness against him, saying, “We heard him saying, ‘I will destroy this temple, constructed by humans, and within three days I will build another, one not made by humans.’” But their testimonies didn’t agree even on this point.

Then the high priest stood up in the middle of the gathering and examined Jesus. “Aren’t you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?” But Jesus was silent and didn’t answer. Again, the high priest asked, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?” Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we need any more witnesses? You’ve heard his insult against God. What do you think?” They all condemned him. “He deserves to die!” Some began to spit on him. Some covered his face and hit him. Then the guards took him and beat him.

The Shadow of Denial according to the Gospel of Mark.....Mark Vinson

Meanwhile, Peter was below in the courtyard. A woman, one of the high priest’s servants, approached and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said, “You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus.” But he denied it, saying, “I don’t know what you’re talking about. I don’t understand what you’re saying.” As he went outside into the outer courtyard, he heard a sound. The female servant saw him and began a second time to say to those standing around, “This man is one of them.” But he denied it again.

A short time later, those standing around again said to Peter, “You must be one of them, because you are also a Galilean.” But he cursed and swore, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” At that very moment, he heard a sound the second time. Peter remembered what Jesus told him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down, sobbing.

Instrumental Worship – “Via Dolorosa” .....Billy Sprague and Niles Borop

*Joan John, Piano*

The Shadow of Rejection according to the Gospel of Luke.....Betty Klise

Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, “You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man’s conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He’s done nothing that deserves death. Therefore, I’ll have him whipped, then let him go.”

But with one voice they shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us.” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.) Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus. They kept shouting out, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time, Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done? I’ve found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go.” But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

The Shadow of the Cross according to Mark.....Kim Miller

The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor’s headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers. They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. They saluted him, “Hey! King of the Jews!” Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. Simon, a man from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross.

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place. They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he didn’t take it. They divided up his clothes, drawing lots for them to determine who would take what. It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the formal charge against him was written, “The king of the Jews.” They crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Hymn ..... “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” .....HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,

I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e're such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Affirmation of Faith.....Dan Koger

We are each a tapestry of stories. We are our stories of fear and grief, as well as our stories of love and joy.

**We believe that God sees all of these interwoven truths and says to our fragile selves:**

*“Come in. Come in from the cold, come in from the rain, come in from wherever you are, and be here tonight.”*

**We believe that God then pours warm water into a basin to wash off the weariness of the day, the bruises of the past, and the doubt that clings to us.**

We believe that this act is an act of love. Similarly, we believe that God says to us: “Eat.” And God shares of God’s self, and it is food not only for our bodies, but for our souls. We believe that all this happens every time we close our eyes and imagine God.

**And every time we close our eyes and imagine God, we believe the parts of our tapestry that feel worn and frayed are held together. So today, we remember. Today we say thank you. Today, we know – we are held together.**

*(Depart in silence)*

### **Worship Leaders**

Dan Koger, Pastor

Kim Miller, Minister for Families and Social Media

Joan John, Pianist

Robin Duncan, Director of Music

### **Quartet**

Shirley Lauer   Hunter Turner   Wilson Turner   Tom Ullom