



Photo by [Jametlene Reskp](#)

Maundy Thursday
First Congregational United Church of Christ
April 14, 2022

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Words to Enter Worship:

One: 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.**

One: Like them, we often follow our own ways.

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

One: 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**

Words of Lamentation:

One: For the leaders of politically troubled countries.

People: **We anoint one another with God's spirit of justice and light.**

One: For all families who suffer from political oppression.

People: **We anoint each one with God's spirit of hope and light.**

One: For all those whose soul is being extinguished by the drives of power and greed.

People: **We anoint each other with God's spirit of repentance and light.**

One: For all those who are dying of terminal illnesses.

People: **We anoint each one with your spirit of comfort and light.**

One: For all those who are now saying good-bye to a beloved friend or family member.

People: **We anoint each one with God's spirit of presence and light.**

One: For all those who see suicide as the only solution to their troubles.

People: **We anoint each one with God's spirit of hope and pray to fan a flame of light.**

One: For all those who are being consumed by poverty.

People: **We anoint each one with God's spirit of comfort and the light of protection.**

One: For all those who are living lives of quiet desperation.

All: **We anoint each one with God's healing spirit of peace and light.**

(silence)

One: Let us seal our prayer with a hymn of faith.

Words of Renewal:

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

People: **If we walk in light as Christ is in the light, we have communion with one another and through the love of God the darkness fades away**

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for^[a] you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

13 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. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 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, ⁴ got up from the table, ^[a] took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, ^[b] but is entirely clean. And you^[c] are clean, though not all of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

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 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants^[d] are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, ^[a] God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Meditation: I give you a new commandment

The Lord’s Supper Communion Service

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger;
You who believe in me shall never thirst.

In the company with all who hunger for spiritual food,

We come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

God be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice.

With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven we glorify you:

Holy, Holy, Holy God Of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your Glory,

O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the Highest!

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took the bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

By the eating of this bread and the drinking of this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

By eating this bread and drinking this cup we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

Through broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The body of Christ offered to you.

The cup of blessing offered to you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, 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

Sending Music

Benediction ^A- From the "United Church of Christ Book of Worship" ^B- From "The Services of the Christian Year" Robert E. Webber Editor