

# Light Into Darkness

## A service for Maundy Thursday

Welcome to Holy Thursday worship. We are glad you have joined us for this service of remembrance of Christ's holy gifts and teachings.

### WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP *(all reading the bold)*

In remembrance, we gather:

**to be with the One who teaches us the meaning of faithfulness.**

In remembrance, we worship:

**lifting our voices to the One who calls us to love one another.**

In remembrance, we feast:

**breaking the Bread which makes us whole,  
drinking the Cup which fills us with grace.**

### EVENING PRAYER

#### TAIZE RESPONSE

*"The Lord is My Light"*



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#### PRAYER FOR THE SERVICE OF LIGHT *(praying together)*

Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine the day and the moon and the stars to shine by night. Kindle in us the flame of your love that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen

#### TAIZE RESPONSE

*"The Lord is My Light" (see above)*

### LIGHTING OF THE TABLE CANDLES

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(praying together)*

Too often, Holy One, we forget to love you a little bit, much less with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul. Too easily, we forget to love our neighbors, building higher and higher walls between us. Too quickly, we forget your call to servanthood, hearing instead the accolades and applause of the world.

Forgive us, God of freedom and hope. Bring us to the Table of grace, where we will be healed; fill us with your steadfast love; lift us to our feet so we might follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that ministry of servanthood and sacrifice which is our calling.

*Silent Prayer*

#### Assurance of Pardon *(all reading the bold)*

This is what we have heard: Christ came to teach, to serve, to lead us into the kingdom of God.

**We will serve, so others might be set free;**

**we will teach, so others will know the Word of hope;**

**we will love, so others will know us as Christ's people;**

**we will do as our Servant has done.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

#### HYMN 292 *(red hymnal)*

*"What Wondrous Love is This"*

### GOSPEL READING

John 13: 1-9, 12-17

### RITUAL OF HANDWASHING

You are invited to come forward to have your hands washed, remembering that Jesus washed his disciples' feet, teaching humility and grace.

#### HYMN 432 *(red hymnal)*

*"Jesu, Jesu"*

### READING THE NEW COMMANDMENT

John 13: 34-35

Given following the washing of the disciple's feet, together they are the origin for the name Maundy Thursday.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER

You are invited to come forward, sit at the table and serve one another communion in silence. You may stay at the table to pray, move to the altar rail, or simply return to your seat.

#### HYMN

*"Bread of the World"*

Reginald Heber/David Ashley White



### THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS: Tenebrae

After each reading, one of the tall table candles will be extinguished. The light will be dimmed slightly following each reading. At the end of the readings, the sanctuary will be completely dark, except for one remaining candle.

### READINGS

Shadow of Betrayal ..... Matthew 26: 20-22, 25

Shadow of Desertion ..... Matthew 26: 31a, 33-35

#### HYMN 2054 *(black hymnal)*

*"Nothing Can Trouble"*

**READINGS**

Agony of the Soul ..... Luke 22: 39-44

Unshared Vigil ..... Mark 14: 32-41

**HYMN 2198** (*black hymnal*)      *“Stay With Me”*

**READINGS**

Father/Mother, the Hour Has Come ..... John 17: 1-4, 6

That They May Be All One ..... John 17: 15-18

**ANTHEM**                                      *“Ubi Caritas”*

Maurice Durufle

*Latin translation:* Where charity and love are, there is God. Since the love of Christ has brought us all together, let us rejoice and be glad now and always. Let everyone love the living God, and with sincere hearts let us love each other.

**READINGS**

Arrest in the Garden ..... John 18: 1-5

Shadow of the Cross ..... Mark 15: 16-20

**THE STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY**

The clergy will strip the sanctuary, blow out the last candle and depart, leading others to depart. Please do not greet outside the doors. The Chancel Choir will sing *Psalm 22* as the sanctuary is stripped.

*There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Our vigil of faith will continue with Good Friday worship at 7 p.m. Please depart in silence.*

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Offering baskets outside the doors will receive gifts for Martha’s Table, which provides spiritual and physical nourishment to the marginalized population in Kalamazoo. Worship services are held at 4 p.m. at First Congregational Church each Sunday.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Worship Leaders

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Sandy Elfring, Rev. Dr. Doug Vernon, Rev. Julie Dix

First United Methodist Children’s Music Ensemble

Music Director      Organist

Jacqueline Stilger      Bernie Foulk

Welcome to First United Methodist Church

If you are visiting First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo for the first time, we bid you welcome!

If you are seeking a church home, please consider worshipping with us again and discovering more about the journey of faith offered to all by our loving and seeking God. Our upcoming worship schedule is:

Good Friday Worship, April 2 @ 7 p.m.

EASTER, April 4, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*“Calling & Falling Away of the Disciples”*

*“The Journey of Hope Concludes: Food for the Famished!”*

We invite you to visit our website, [www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org) for more information.

# Maundy Thursday



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
212 SPark Street Kalamazoo, MI 49007 269-381-6340 [www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)  
A Reconciling Congregation

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