

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.

REMEMBERING THE FOOT WASHING

ANTHEM *"A New Commandment"*

Malcolm Archer

Love one another as I have loved you. A new commandment I give you now that you love one another as I have loved you. By this will all people know you are my friends if you love one another as I loved you. The love I give you, the world will receive, if you love one another as I loved you.

WELCOME

GOSPEL READING – The New Commandment

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

SONG #432 (red hymnal) *"Jesus, Jesus"*

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

The darkness deepens, and the Lord grows troubled.

Can we watch with Him?

Can we be the friends at His table who share His bread and wine?

Can we be the companions who journey with Him to the end?

Come, let us worship, let us watch, and let us give thanks for such great love. Amen.

PRAISE AND CONFESSION (all praying the **bold**)

Lord Jesus,

We are stunned at your passion and your commitment toward us.

You did not run from the darkness.

You did not hide from your accusers.

You did not fade into safe obscurity.

You stepped with determination into the darkness –
willingly giving yourself to whip and fist, to wood and nails.

We praise you, Gracious Lord,

for what you were prepared to endure to reconcile us with God.

We praise you, Gracious Lord,

for your words of forgiveness, and the invitation to paradise.

Forgive us that we allow ourselves to become too familiar with this story.

That we take your suffering too lightly, and receive your grace too cheaply.

As we watch with you, while the darkness encroaches,

let us remember what this journey means,

and count again the cost of love. Amen.

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 go God. Amen

RESPONSE #2275 (black hymnal) *“Kyrie” (Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy)*

HOLY COMMUNION (all reading the **bold**)

When the time arrived for Jesus to be lifted up;
when all had been prepared,
and He shared His last meal with His friends,
the Lord, took the loaf, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples.

When you eat the bread, remember Me.

This is my body broken for you.

When the meal was finished, the Lord took the cup, blessed it,
and gave it to the disciples.

When you drink the wine, remember Me.

This is my blood shed for you.

Now, as we gather at this table,
we eat bread;
we drink wine;
and we remember the One Who died to bring us life.

And we will keep sharing this meal until He returns. Amen.

SONG #628 *“Eat This Bread”*



SHARING THE MEAL

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, Lord, for giving us this sacred meal, for giving us your Presence and your life;
and for reminding us of your everlasting grace, which will be celebrated for all eternity. Amen.

SONG #2255 (black hymnal) *“In the Singing”*

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

THE GARDEN

Matthew 26: 36-46

SONG "Stay With Me"

Jacques Berthier



THE BETRAYAL

Matthew 26: 47-56

SONG #534 (red hymnal) "Be Still My Soul" (v.1)

THE TRIAL

Matthew 26: 57-68

SONG #534 "Be Still My Soul" (v.2)

THE PAIN OF DENIAL

Matthew 26: 69 – 27: 5

SONG #534 "Be Still My Soul" (v.3)

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

Matthew 27: 11-31

SOLO "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

arr. David Hur

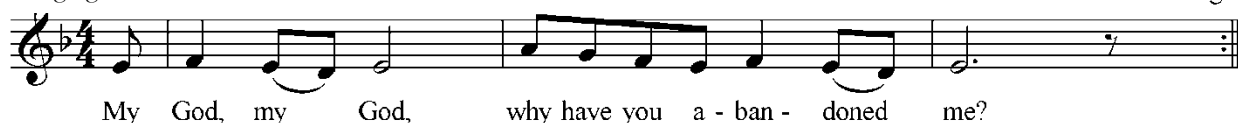
THE STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY

The clergy will strip the sanctuary, blow out the last candle and depart, leading others to depart. Please join the Children's Choir in singing the refrain to *Psalms* 22 as the sanctuary is stripped.

PSALM 22

Congregational refrain

Arr. J. Stilger



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.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. John Boley, Rev. Shelly Wisdom-Long, Rev. Sandy Elfring,
Laura VanVlack-Ailes, Brian Mange, Jeremy Ray, Jonah Bolton
Music Director/Children's Choir Director: Jacqueline Stilger; Organist: Eric Strand; Soloist: Cari Miller

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.

Offering plates are available outside the sanctuary door for your gifts to Martha's Table.

Maundy Thursday



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
212 S. Park Street Kalamazoo, MI 49007 269-381-6340 www.umc-kzo.org
A Reconciling Congregation

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