

**First Presbyterian Church
Maundy Thursday**

March 28, 2024

Order of Worship

The Call to Worship

It was the last supper

For Jesus

On this earth.

A solemn occasion.

A time of sadness,

A preparation for betrayal

And death.

A good-bye meal.

A sense of loss

And grief

Hung in the air.

The Last Supper.

But only on this earth;

For this supper

Foreshadows another

Which will come

In the fullness of time.

And this meal,

The wedding feast of the Lamb,

Will last for all time;

Will be infinitely joyful;

And will satisfy the soul's deepest longings.

So let us eat of tonight's meal with sorrow lessened

By the hope of that future feast

This will usher in the era of eternal joy.

Amen.

Corporate Prayer of Confession – Followed by a time of silence

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken; we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Assurance of God's Grace

The inestimable mercy of God is not diminished by the wavering strength of our faith nor by our capacity for joy. The mercy of God is poured upon us, faithful and faithless, joyful and joyless alike, that all may come to know the boundless love of God. Friends, believe and accept the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Lessons

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 and 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

The Word of the Lord;

Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Raising the Cup

Choral Anthem

Alas! And Did my Savior Bleed

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred hear for sinners such as I? Was it
for sins that I have done He groaned upon the tree? Amazing
piety! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree! Well might
the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in when Christ, the
great Redeemer, died for His own creatures' sin. Thus might I
hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears? Dissolve
my heart in thankfulness and melt my eyes to tears. But tears of
grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give
myself away; 'tis all that I can do.

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

....Therefore with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

....Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

....Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* Hymn 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

* Benediction