

First Presbyterian Church
Maundy Thursday
April 17, 2025
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.

Hymn 451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

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

Exodus 21: 1-4, 11-14 and John 13: 1-17, 31-35

The Word of the Lord;

Thanks be to God.

Meditation

"Set You an Example"

Choral Anthem

"Agnus Dei"
From *Song of the Shadows*

Joseph Martin

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"

Benediction