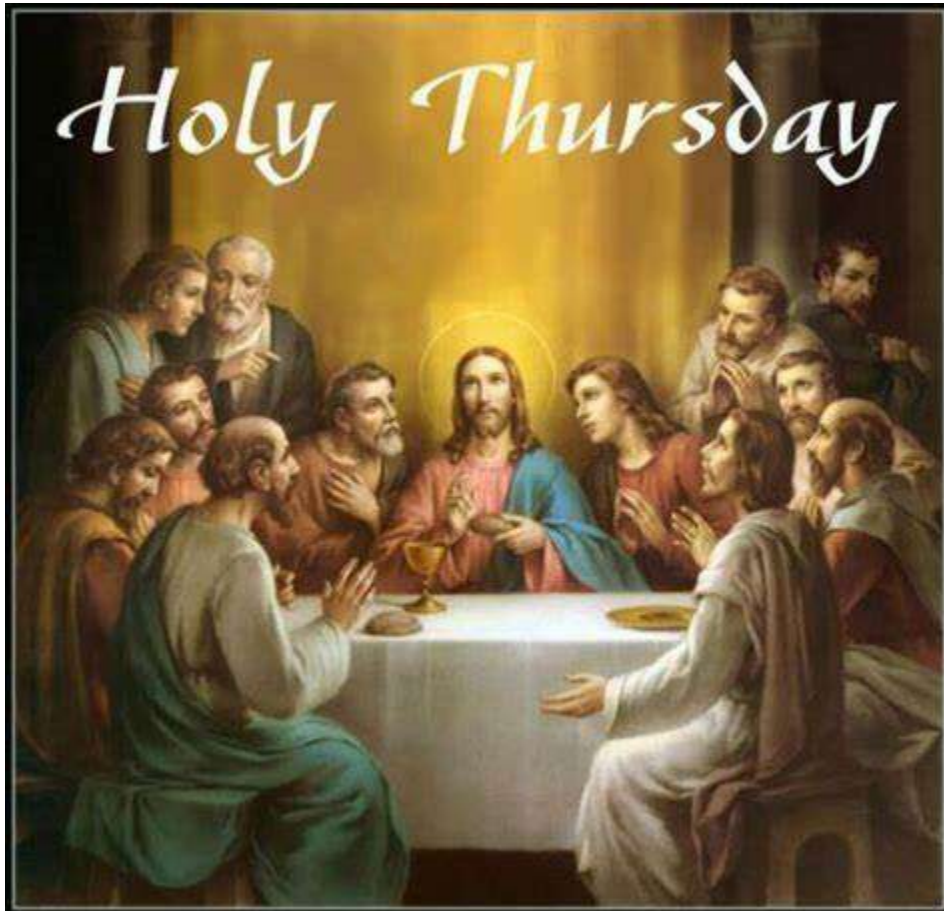


Mifflin Avenue & South Avenue United Methodist Churches

April 6, 2023

7:00 PM



Pastor Russel contact information:

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Pastor Russel is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

LITURGY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

"Soul adorn thyself with gladness"

Johanna G. Walther

SILENT PROCESSION

GREETING

Dear Friends in Christ, peace be with you on this holy night. Why do we gather? What is this night? It is a night of *love* —for on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: to love each other as he loved them.

It is a night of *communion* —for on this night Jesus gave not only a commandment, but also a sign: bread and wine broken and poured, to remember him.

It is a night of loving *service* —for on this night Jesus gave us not only a commandment, not only a sign, but also an example: on his knees with basin and towel, washing feet.

It is also a night of *betrayal* —for on this night a man Jesus loved sold him for money and brought soldiers to seize and bind him as he prayed.

This night is joyous, fierce, tender, terrible. We begin in light, with memories and stories, friends and feasting. We end in shadows, with a queasy fright.

We begin as the friends of Jesus did long ago: together, as one. We end as they did: scattered in the dark.

We begin as they did: singing of love and deliverance. We end as they did: without a single sound.

Friends, be at peace on this holy night. Enter it with open hearts.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN

'Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here'
(Sung to the tune of 'Faith of Our Fathers' No. 710)

No. 579

OPENING PRAYER

God of deliverance and love, look with pleasure on your people who gather here. Send your Spirit to embrace us, so that with hearts for a time made free of care, we may receive in abundance the blessings of this night. With Jesus we pray that whatever may come in life or in death, your will, not ours, may be done. Glory to you, yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

INTROIT

'In This Room, a Towel and Basin' Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
(Sung to the tune 'Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult' No. 398)

**In this room, a towel and basin
Stand as gifts we don't deserve.
Christ, you humbly knelt to use them;
Showing us the way to serve.**

**On a table, set for dinner
Are your gifts of wine and bread.
Christ, you give to every sinner
Food and love, till all are fed.**

**From you, Lord, we hear a teaching:
"Now I give a new command.
Love as I have loved, out-reaching!
Then the world will understand!"**

**Basin, supper, word and witness —
Then a cross — revealed your Way.
May we put our faith in practice,
Humbly serving you each day.**

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Exodus 12:14-17; 24-27a

Remembering God's deliverance: Observing the feast of Passover.

SILENCE

HYMN

'Why Is This Night Different?' Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Sung to the tune of 'We Gather Together' No. 131)

**"Why is this night different from all of the others?"
This night we remember how God set us free.
This night we remember our fathers and mothers
Whom God reached out to save from harsh slavery.**

**We eat bitter herbs to recall how they suffered;
The salt water tells of their tears and their cries.
The lamb is the sacrifice each household offered;
The matzo is the bread with no time to rise.**

**Haroseth reminds how the people long labored
In making the mortar; what weary, worn slaves!
And yet in its sweetness is hope ever-savored,
And in each cup of wine, the promise: God saves!**

**Through symbols we share here, your story is spoken;
God, help us to know that it's our story, too!
For as we are saved we are sent to the broken,
Till all know peace and joy, till all are made new.**

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES I Corinthians 11: 23-26

What we have heard, we hand on to you: When they were eating, he took bread...

SILENCE

*RESPONSE HYMN 'Let Us Break Bread Together ' No. 618

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

The mark of the new community is love and service.

SILENCE

RESPONSE HYMN "*Jesu, Jesu*" No. 432

COLLECT

Pastor: Gracious God, on this holy night, impress upon our hearts the example of Jesus, whose love embraced all people and whose service extended even to the washing of feet.

People: May we know him from this day forward not only in the broken bread and brimming cup, but also in the bent knee, in the water poured, in the touch of selfless hands—in service given and received, and shared with all the world. In remembrance of him we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus said: If anyone has something against you, before you come to the table with gifts, make peace. Then bring your gifts, then bring your lives. Dear friends, let us make peace in our hearts. Then, let us lay down the burdens that keep us from loving each other and our God.

SILENCE

HYMN OF CONFESSION 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' No. 298

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, by the mercy of God we have put down our burdens at the feet of the one who in suffering love laid down his life for us. Rejoice and be glad: pardon, healing and peace are ours through Jesus the Christ, our Redeemer.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

On this night he gave us a charge: Love one another as I have loved you. Faithful to his commandment, we forgive each other's faults, as we confess our own, and we offer each other a sign of his peace.

CELEBRATION THROUGH HOLY EUCHARIST**GATHERING AT THE TABLE**

Come now and take your places at this table, citizens of the kingdom, heirs to the riches of God's love, friends of Jesus, who is our peace.

Beloved, let us celebrate with Jesus at the table of peace.

For he loved his own, even to the end.

Let us eat the Feast with him.

For now nothing can separate us from his love.

And let us love one another well,

For he laid down his life for us all.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Praise to you, God of glory! Your love created the universe and sustains it. You breathed life into our dust and placed us in paradise. You found us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin. Your love shaped a people, and you are their God to this day, in an alliance that lasts forever. In the fullness of time, you called us also to be your own, through the tender ministry of Jesus. You spoke to us with his human voice and healed us with his human hands. He gave us his life in bread and wine, and suffered for his faithfulness on the cross of shame. But you loved him faithfully, raising him from the dead. You sent his Spirit into our hearts and adopted us, making us heirs of his glory; forever we belong in your household of joy. Holy and wonderful God, all your creatures testify to your love. With them, we too declare it, as with the angels of heaven we sing:

SANCTUS

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.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Now, O God, we remember Jesus.

SILENCE

We remember that he longed to celebrate the Passover with his friends.

He arranged for a meal, his last in this life.

We remember that he gave them a new commandment:

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

We remember that he gave them an example:

He knelt before them and washed their feet.

We remember that his betrayer was with him.

Jesus loved and served him too.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And we remember that on that night, with danger and death in the air, Jesus remembered with joy the deliverance of his ancestors from the oppression of Pharaoh. He told the victory story, ate bitter herbs, shared the unleavened loaf, and drank the cup of blessing. In love for us, he took the bread, gave thanks to you, and broke it. He gave it to them, saying: “Take and eat this, all of you: this is my body, broken for you. Do this and remember me”

And when the supper was over, he took a cup filled with wine, blessed it in your name, and passed it to them, saying: “This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood. Do this and remember me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts and signs of light and life in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as signs of light and life in union with Christ’s offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Holy Spirit, come make all things new. Bless this bread and cup, and us who share them. May they be for us life-giving food and drink. Give us love for each other, and make us your servants in the world until your new age of justice comes, and every creature beholds it. We pray in the name of Jesus, who welcomes us all and taught us to say:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION

Friends, if you are hungry for a taste of what is to come, when all creatures great and small will feast together without fear in the household of God; if you yearn to feast on a love without condition and without end; if you are thirsting for forgiveness, given and received in humility and in joy, then open your hearts to this meal, a sign of grace, a gift of peace, the bread of life, the cup of joy:

The gifts of God for the people of God

HYMN

‘The Night You Were Arrested’
(Sung to the tune of ‘The Church's One Foundation’ No. 545)

**The night you were arrested, you told us to recall
the bread, your body broken, the wine, poured out for all.
You told them, "Take and eat it," and in that time and place
you gave to all creation the wonders of God's grace.**

**That night you sat at table and looked around at friends;
you talked about forgiveness and how God's love extends.
You surely tried to teach them, to help them see anew,
the joy of God's salvation that comes to us, through you.**

**This night we come together to worship and to pray.
We hear your love's commandment; we seek to learn your Way.
May bread and cup now give us the strength we need to be
your church, your loving body, in this community.**

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks.

Thank you Holy God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the fruits of this Holy Communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, and the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING ‘The Night You Were Arrested’
(Sung to the tune of ‘The Church's One Foundation No. 545)

**Lord Jesus, you joined in the great celebration,
Then gave us a new meal to joyfully share.
You blessed bread and wine and you offered salvation;
Now send us out to serve, Lord, this is our prayer!**

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

PARTING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26: 30-31a

("They sang a hymn and went directly to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus told them, 'Before the night is over, you're going to fall to pieces because of what happens to me.'")

*CLOSING HYMN

'Are Ye Able'

No. 530

ALL DEPART IN SILENCE