



# MAUNDY THURSDAY

**APRIL 1, 2021**

St. John United Church of Christ  
10207 Lincoln Trail  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
Telephone 397-6323  
Secretary – Judy Hartman  
Rev. Rosemary Captain

“We Receive and Hand On”  
Prayers for Maundy Thursday  
written by Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson

## **WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PRELUDE: “Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley/  
Were You There” James M. Stevens Piano/Flute Duet  
Stacie Pickens and Sharon Banjavcic**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

The Israelites cried out to God in their oppression.

**Their voices still echo around the globe:  
in India, Sudan, Mexico, and in American cities.**

God hears the cries of the suffering,  
and delivers those who wait on God.

**All who suffer, who die, who are alienated  
are precious to God;**

**Let us love the Lord who restores liberty,  
And gives us hope for peace.**

Today we remember the One who gave himself for us,  
Jesus the Christ.

**Let us worship God!**

## **\*INVOCATION:**

Jesus, Lamb of God, we bless you today,  
remembering what you have done for us.

You poured out your life to show us the love of God.

Today we celebrate your gift of life  
as we somberly recall your death  
and exult in your resurrection. **Amen.**

**MUSIC: “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** Giver of Life, from time  
immemorial you call us to yourself.

In ways too numerous to mention, we fail to respond.

Forgive us, we pray.

Our limited understanding of culture  
gets in the way of fellowship  
with those different from ourselves.

Our limited vision of community  
gets in the way of your call  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to seek justice and peace for all.  
Replace our arrogance, Merciful One,  
with the humility and caring service Jesus modeled,  
for truly we are not greater than our Teacher and  
Savior. **Amen.**     *Silence for personal confession*

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God gives us grace and more grace.  
Be assured of this truth, that in Christ you are forgiven!  
Amen.

#### ***LISTENING FOR GOD IN THE STORIES OF OUR TRADITION***

***Recalling the Passover***     **Reading:    Exodus 12:1-14**

**12** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup> “This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. <sup>4</sup> If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month.

At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. <sup>7</sup> They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. <sup>8</sup> That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup> Don’t eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. <sup>10</sup> Don’t let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. <sup>11</sup> This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup> I’ll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I’ll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I’ll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I’ll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> “This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the LORD. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

**MUSIC:            “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

*Imagine yourself and your family in this text, among the Israelites who were enslaved and desperate. What thoughts might go through your mind as you follow these instructions and prepare this meal? How would you explain to children why you are eating “hurriedly”? Are you excited? Fearful? What images of oppression and liberation come to mind? Where do you experience the need for freedom in your life? in your community? in our world? What is the cost of freedom?*

### ***A New Commandment from Jesus: Servant Leadership***

#### **Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

**13** Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “You don’t understand what I’m doing now, but you will understand later.”

<sup>8</sup> “No!” Peter said. “You will never wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t have a place with me.”

<sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said, “Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus responded, “Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you.” <sup>11</sup> He knew who would betray him. That’s why he said, “Not every one of you is clean.”

<sup>12</sup> After he washed the disciples’ feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, “Do you know what I’ve done for you? <sup>13</sup> You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you speak correctly, because I am. <sup>14</sup> If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. <sup>16</sup> I assure you, servants aren’t greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

<sup>31</sup> When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself and will glorify him immediately. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I’m with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish

leaders, I also tell you now—‘Where I’m going, you can’t come.’

<sup>34</sup> “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. <sup>35</sup> This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

**MUSIC: “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”**

*Imagine yourself in this upper room with Jesus and his friends.*

*With whom do you identify? How do you feel?*

*Peter resists Jesus’ service of footwashing. Would you?*

*Are you surprised that Jesus included Judas in the footwashing?*

*What would it take to offer a service of love to someone who hurt or betrayed you?*

*What manner of love does Jesus model and command of us?*

**Community and Communion: God in Our Midst**

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> I received a tradition from the Lord, which I also handed on to you: on the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. <sup>24</sup> After giving thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this to remember me.” <sup>25</sup> He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do this to remember me.” <sup>26</sup> Every

time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you broadcast the death of the Lord until he comes.

*This commemorative act, central to our tradition, comes alive for us each time we gather at the Communion Table.*

*In re-enacting this event,*

*what is it that we receive from the Lord and pass on to future generations?*

*At this table, and especially on this night, we stand remembering our past, faithful in our present and hoping in God’s future, proclaiming the Lord’s death until he comes again.*

*(1 Cor 11: 26)*

*Certainly we remember Christ’s death when we gather here, but what does a future rich in grace and hope look like, when Christ will come again?*

*What does this moment feel like, entwining memory, faith, and hope?*

*Do you welcome Christ when you sit down to break bread with friends? Whom does Christ call you to invite to join you at the Lord’s table?*

*The Communion Table presents an opportunity for reconciliation in the community;*

*to give and to receive forgiveness and service;*

*to hear anew our beloved story and to re-tell it for this moment; to enter the new covenant through the Lifeblood of Christ.*

**SHARING THE MEAL:**

**MUSIC: “In Remembrance of Me” (video)**

**UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**MUSIC: “What Wondrous Love is This?”**

**BENEDICTION:**

Go out into the night,  
contemplating what Jesus faced on that fateful Friday.  
Make note of what you experienced this evening.  
May you be continually transformed into the image of Christ.  
Just as Jesus honored God by placing God’s will above his own, may God be glorified through our lives.  
Be of good courage!  
Trust in God in whom we have salvation and hope.

**POSTLUDE: “In God We Trust”** Robert J. Hughes

**We Receive and Hand On: Prayers for Maundy Thursday** was written by the Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson, Minister for Ministerial Formation, MESA Team

**PRAYER LIST: We pray for the health and well-being of all affected by the pandemic and we especially pray for:**

Urban Baum, Donna Isselhard, Becky Ballard, P.J. Bennett, Nelson Libell, Joe Knapp, Danny Ballard.