



United Presbyterian Church
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April 18, 2019

7:00 p.m.

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

Jane Wester

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Remain seated.)

- One: Why is this night different from all other nights?
All: **Other nights we are at home, but tonight we are gathered here.**
One: Why do we come to church this evening?
All: **Usually we worship in the morning, but tonight we remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples.**
One: Why do we offer our hands and feet to be washed?
All: **Tonight we remember how Jesus took the role of a servant and showed us that we are to humbly care for each other.**
One: Why do we take communion sitting at a table?
All: **We usually take communion in our seats or standing, but tonight we remember that Jesus sat at a table with his disciples.**

PRAYER

One: In peace, let us pray.
All: **Blessed be You, our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us life, sustained us and brought us to this season of remembrance. Bless us this evening as we are served and as we serve one another. Increase our desire to live as Jesus taught us. Remind us that every act of kindness honors his memory. In his name we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN *What Wondrous Love is This* #215**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- One: On this holy evening, we remember events from long ago. We remember how Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another even as he had loved them.
Let us pray:
All: **O holy Jesus, we live, as much as we are able, as you taught us. We care for each other in many ways. Yet, we find it easier to care for others than to receive care. Give us the humility we need to accept what others offer us.**
One: On this holy evening, we remember events from long ago. We remember that Jesus' last meal with his disciples was a Passover celebration.
Let us pray:
All: **O holy Jesus, you and your disciples remembered the story of our Hebrew ancestors and their liberation from Egypt. You recalled how God in heaven heard their cries, called Moses as their leader, parted the sea so they could cross over on dry land, protected them from Pharaoh's anger, and thus brought them to freedom. Open our hearts that we may trust that God still hears the cries of the dispossessed. Forgive us when we shy away from opportunities to stand up on behalf of those who are now seeking freedom and security.**

One: We remember how, after supper, Jesus took the cup of Elijah, and revealed himself to the disciples as the long-awaited Messiah. Let us pray.

All: **O holy Jesus, forgive us. All too often, we betray or deny or turn our backs on signs of your kingdom when it comes among us. We fail to recognize your saving work in the world. We forget that you call us to help bring redemption and reconciliation even now. Amen.**

(Sung, please remain seated.)

**Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

(# 442, stanzas 1 and 3)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus welcomes, pardons, cleanses, and relieves us of all guilt and shame. He himself is the Passover lamb, and his blood becomes our protection from sin, evil, violence and death. He taught us to live courageously, with hearts willing to love, hands willing to serve, and feet ready to go wherever we are called.

All: **Let us give thanks.**

(Sung, please remain seated.)

**Just as I am, thy love unknown,
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come. I come.**

SCRIPTURE READER

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1-4, 7-8, 11-14

John 13: 1-17, 34-35

ANTHEM

Remember Me

Chancel Choir

Jane Wester, Director

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God most High.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Gracious God, on this holy evening . . .

All: **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.**

OFFERTORY

Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN ***Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love***

#203

PREPARATION AND SHARING IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please enter the chancel area by coming down the aisle on the right of the sanctuary. Prepare for communion by having your feet or hands washed. When your preparation is finished, please be seated at one of the communion tables where a host will consecrate the bread and cup and pass them around the table. When you have communed, return to your seat by the left aisles. You are invited regardless of age or church affiliation. We use gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us give thanks.

All: O holy Jesus, by your example, you remind us how important it is that we serve each other. By your broken body, you bless us with forgiveness and the power to forgive each other. By the cup of salvation, you reveal to us your saving presence. Let tonight be, not only a commemoration of the past, but a celebration of the community you create in the present. You left the upper room, knowing that betrayal, suffering and probably death would come to you soon. Yet you trusted God to be with you. Give us, too, such faith and confidence. *Amen.*

***HYMN *Go to Dark Gethsemane* #220**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Foot Washing	Charlotte Frantz
Handwashing	Bob Goodin
Assisting Preparations	Jackie Ranco
Table Hosts	Duane Aslyn, Sue Goodin and Mary Voss
Ushers	Christy and Jim Willmore
Deacons	Wayne Phelps and Mary Kay Coone
Musician	Jane Wester

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 7-8, 11-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

NEW TESTAMENT READING***John 13: 1-17, 34-35***

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'