

St John's United Church of Christ
Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

7:30p.m.

When you arrive, you will find a table has been set for you. Please come in and find a seat and enjoy some food and fellowship!

Music to Gather: "Jesus Is All the World to Me" Will L. Thompson
Copyright 2001 Pilot Point Music
Karen ElChar, Flute

Welcome Rev. Becky Sausser

Call to Worship by *Ministry Matters*

One: A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

All: A meal of bread and wine, of meat and bitter herbs.

One: The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

All: The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.

One: As we break the bread and share the cup,

All: our understanding may fail us.

One: But we will never forget Christ's example.

All: We will never forget the full extent of his love.

Hymn#329..... "Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts"



Jesus, the joy of loving hearts

321

Attrib. to Bernard of Clairvaux, c. 1150
Transl. Ray Palmer, 1858; alt.

John 6:52-58; Heb. 13

1 Je - sus, the joy of lov - ing hearts, fount of our lives, and
2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with all to
3 We taste of you, the liv - ing bread, and long to feast up -
4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our chang - ing
5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our mo - ments

light of all: From ev - ery bliss that earth im - parts
call on you; To those still seek - ing, you are good;
on you still; We drink of you, the foun - tain - head;
lot is cast; Glad, when your smile on us you turn,
calm and bright! Oh, chase the cloud of sin a - way!

we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
to those who find you, life is new.
our thirst - y souls from you we fill.
blessed, when by faith we hold you fast.
Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Prayer of Confession

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Let us come before the Lord of mercy, confessing the places where we are still learning and growing.

Many: Precious Lord Jesus, we come before you tonight to profess that we need you. We need your love for us, and we need the salvation that you freely give us. When we remember the story of the Exodus, we are reminded that God delivers us. As we remember the story of the Last Supper, we remember your love and the salvation given to us. When we look at these stories together, we know that we are made clean in the blood of the Lamb. Be with us tonight and bless us as we gather in remembrance of you, that we may be salt and light, and leaven in the world that you love. Amen.

Confession Response Hymn# 202, Verse 1

**O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.**

Words of Assurance

One: On this blessed night when we partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion, we find that Christ's grace has already found us and wrapped us in love and light.

All: "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Amanda Muschett

Exodus 12:1-8.

³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ 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. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

John 13:1-35

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. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am

doing, but later you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ 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.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Song for Grace

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Sermon

“Red”

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #331....."Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

331

George Herbert, 1633; alt.

John 8:12; 14:1-7; 15:11

Unison

The musical score is written for unison voice and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can

breath; Such a truth as ends all strife;
feast; Such a feast as mends in length;
move; Such a love as none can part;

such a life as con- - - quers death.
such a strength as makes . . . a guest.
such a heart as joys . . . in love.

Shortly before his death, the poet George Herbert entrusted his manuscript of The Temple (including this hymn) to a friend for publication. The musical setting by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams is from Five Mystical Songs from George Herbert.

Tune: THE CALL 7.7.7.7.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1911

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer Response Hymn #521, Verse 3

**In seasons of perplexity, in times of deep despair,
I light a candle in the night and turn to God in prayer.**

Choir Anthem

“Draw Near”

Sheldon Curry

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Eucharist led by Rev. Becky Sausser

Written by Rev. Nate Craddock Sung liturgy to the tune of “Here I Am”

One: God be with you in our love,
Lift your hearts to God above.

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

One: Holy, Holy, holy Lord,
God of power, God of love,
Sing Hosanna, Christ has come
in God’s own name.

Refrain (All):

**People needing, Spirit leading,
Jesus feeding all who come to him.
Bread for tending, cup for mending,
Spirit sending us to serve the world.**

One: On the night his life was giv’n,
Jesus took the bread of heav’n.
Thanking God, he broke it all:
“remember me!”

Then he took the common cup,
New forgiveness lifting up.
Thanking God, he gave to all:
“remember me!”

Refrain (All):

One: We remember God in Christ,
Holy, living sacrifice.
So, like him, in thanks and praise,
ourselves we give.

**All: We embrace his mystery
How he died and set us free
As he rose; he’ll come again.
In Christ we live.**

Refrain (All):

**People needing, Spirit leading,
Jesus feeding all who come to him.
Bread for tending, cup for mending,
Spirit sending us to serve the world.**

One: On these gifts of wine and bread
And your people in this place,
Pour your Spirit, gift divine,
Giving us Christ.

**All: By the Spirit make us one,
One with Christ to serve the world
That on earth your will be done
'Til Christ shall come.**

Refrain (All):

One: Now to you, all loving God,
Father, Son, and Spirit One,
Be all glory, thanks and praise
Forever more.

Take you now the bread and wine.
For you given by Jesus Christ.
Let it feed your soul and heart
Forever more!

Refrain (All):

Offertory:

“Abide With Me”

William Monk, Arr. Philip Sparke

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Stripping the Altar

Recessional Hymn# 223.....“What Wondrous Love Is This”

What Wondrous Love Is This

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)
Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843

*Commission and Blessing

*Threefold Amen

*Postlude "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" Albert L. Peace Arr. Don Phillips
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Thank you for your presence with us this evening. You are invited to join us tomorrow evening for our Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:30pm.
Please join us for our Easter Service this Sunday at 11:00am.