

SONG FOR ILLUMINATION

“Alone in the Garden”
Chancel Choir

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Words of Institution and Message
Matthew 26:26-29

* **HYMN** “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

For the bread which You have broken.
For the wine which You have poured.
For the words which You have spoken,
Now we give You thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that You love us. By Your gift of peace restored.
By Your to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the saints who now adore You, seated at the heavenly board.
May the church still waiting for You, keep love’s tie unbroken, Lord.

In Your service, Lord, defend us. In our hearts keep watch and ward.
In the world to which You send us, let Your kingdom come O Lord.

Receiving the Bread and the Cup
Matthew 26:30, 36-56
Prayer

CHORAL RESPONSE “To See the King of Heaven Fall”

PSALM READING Psalm 22
Stripping of the Church

* **DEPART IN SILENCE**

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“Go to Dark Gethsemane” CCLI Song # 2783729 James Montgomery © Public Domain | “Ah Holy Jesus” CCLI Song # 4660527 Johann Cruger | Johann Heermann | Johann Sebastian Bach | Robert Seymour Bridges © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” Louis Fitzgerald Benson CCLI Song #2871961 © Public Domain



MAUNDY THURSDAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARCH 28, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

**Indicates to stand if you are able*

GATHERING MUSIC

“Kyrie” from “Mozart’s Requiem”

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of love, as we prepare to remember the events of this poignant night, open our eyes to see the beauty of Jesus’ self-giving love, and by your Spirit work in our community a desire and commitment to serve each other and our hurting world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Tis Midnight and on Olive’s Brow”
Chancel Choir

OPENING PRAYER

Unison: O living Christ, this evening as we gather for prayer, we are reminded of your solitary prayer in the garden. It must have been hard to break bread with your disciples that night, knowing that later one would betray you, one would deny you, and all

would sleep out of weariness when you needed them most. With you, O Christ, we pray that the cup of testing be removed from us. We pray that God's will be worked in our lives. Preserve us from the Gethsemane sleep and the sorrow of those who live without hope. Keep us vigilant in prayer, steadfast in trust, and grateful for your risen presence. Amen.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Congregation: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

—Psalm 34:1-4, 8, NRSV

*** OPENING PRAISE** “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Go to dark Gethsemane, all that feel the tempter's power.
Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with Him one bitter hour.
Turn not from His griefs away. Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall. View the Lord of Life arraigned.
O, the wormwood and the gall! O, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss. Learn from Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb. There, adoring at His feet.
Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry. Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ shows his self-giving love by washing his disciples' feet. Surely we do not live up to Christ's example. We confess now our sin and our need of a Savior.

Loving Lord, you taught us compassion. You took a servant's role and knelt at the feet of your friends. You gave us a meal to remind us of your life-giving love. You called us to love one another too.

Forgive us, Lord, for not practicing the compassion you modeled. Forgive us, Lord, for wanting to be served rather than to serve. Forgive us, Lord, for not loving as you called us to love. Amen.

LAMENT

“Ah Holy Jesus”

Ah, holy Jesu how have You offended,
That mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided by Your own rejected. O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
It is my treason, Lord that has undone You.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You; I crucified You.

For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation.
Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion, for my salvation.

Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay You.
I do adore You and will ever praise You.
Think on Your pity and Your love unswerving, not my deserving.

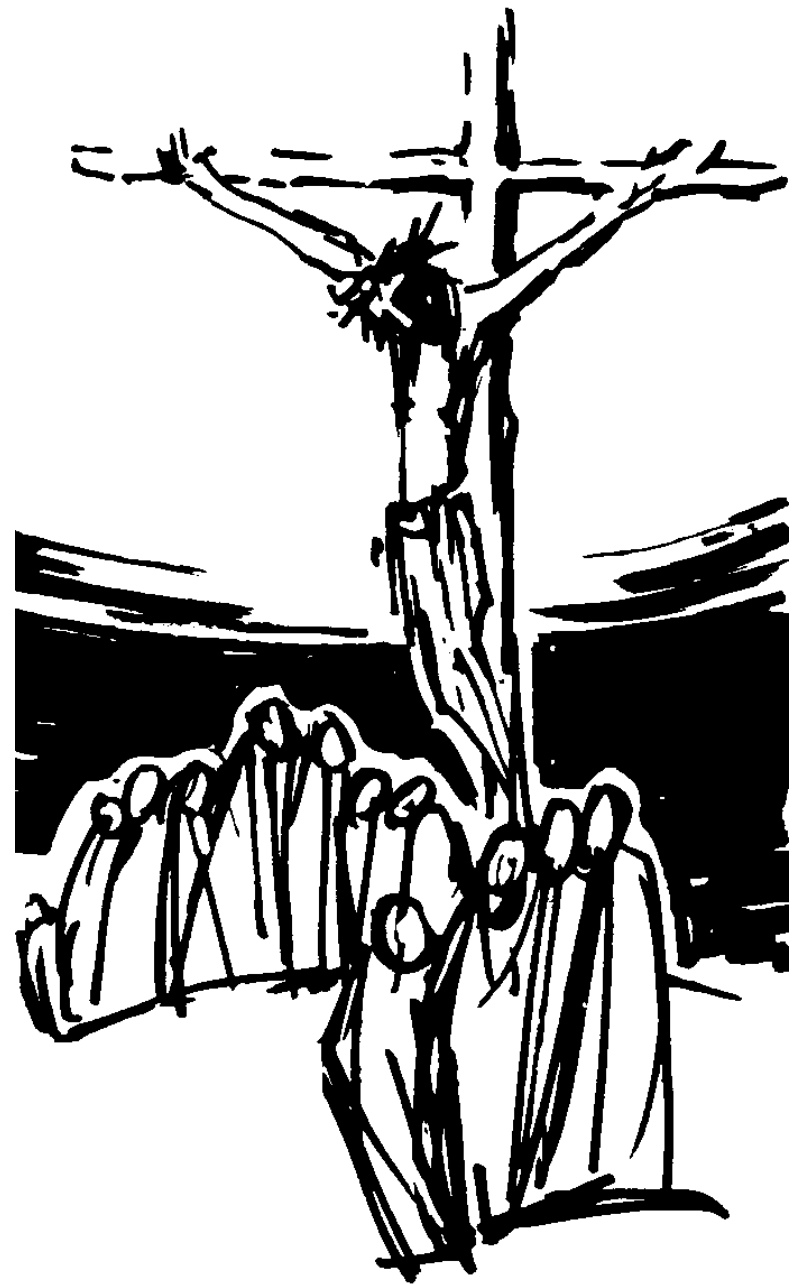
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Jesus we remember tonight is the Savior of the world.

In Christ we are forgiven. And through him God abides with even us. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

—based on 1 John 4:14-16, NRSV



First Presbyterian Church
North East, PA
March 29, 2024, 7:00 PM
Rev. Dr. Gregg D. Townsend, Officiant

* Indicates to stand if you are able

A SERVICE IN MEMORY OF

Jesus of Nazareth

ca. 5bc in Bethlehem of Judea – ca.30ad in Jerusalem

PRELUDE

PROCESSION AND THE PLACING OF THE PALL

WORDS OF COMFORT AND WELCOME

*** PRAYER**

*** OPENING HYMN** “Were You There?” #102

SHARING MEMORIES

Mary, Mother of Jesus

Martha of Bethany, Friend of the Family

John, Beloved Friend

Simon Peter, Student

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Invitation

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving Father, to whom your crucified Son prayed, we praise you, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.

Thank you for your Son, Jesus.

When he stood on trial under false accusations, he gave no reply, not even to a single charge. When the crowd shouted, “Crucify him!” louder and louder, he remained silent.

Look, the Lamb of God!

When they struck him, he did not retaliate—though they stripped him, pushed a crown of thorns into his head, knelt in front of him, and mocked him.

Look, the Lamb of God!

When they led him away to be executed and drove nails into his hands and feet; while the people stood watching as they lifted him up and the rulers sneered at him, your Son prayed: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Look, the Lamb of God!

Though he was crucified among criminals, though one of them hurled insults at him, he heard the voice of the one who cried, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And your Son assured him, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Look, the Lamb of God!

When darkness overtook the afternoon light, when the sun stopped shining and the temple of the curtain was torn in two, your Son called out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” and breathed his last.

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!

Now in your love and mercy, Holy Father, give us your Spirit, so that through these gifts of bread and juice, we may be united more fully with Jesus and with one another. Lift our hearts so that in all the sorrows and troubles of this life we may continue in hope for the new life in your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Before he died, Jesus told his friends, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you, I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” —John 14:27, NRSV

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

Thanks be to God.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Thanks be to God.