

MAUNDY *Thursday*

*Love one another
as I have loved you.*

JOHN 13:34

WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE
MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 6, 2023
7:00PM

THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

.....“Gethsemane Prayer” Sewell

GATHERING WORDS

WELCOME AND CONCERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please stand, as you are able, and join in the call to worship.*)

One: Christ’s love is poured out for us
like water poured into a basin.

All: Christ’s love washes us clean.

One: Christ’s love shows us who we are to be,
and what we are to do.

All: How blessed we are to know such love! Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Let us pray! We love you, Lord. You hear us. You listen to our
prayers.

All: You have always heard us whenever we’ve called to you.

One: Though death tries to bind us and the gates of hell open before us,

All: we will call on the Lord’s name for deliverance.

One: You are full of grace and righteousness.

All: Lord, you are full of compassion!

One: You have saved us and preserved us, God.

All: We rest in your love and care.

One: How can we repay you, Lord, for the gifts you’ve showered upon us?

All: We offer our thanksgiving to you before all your people!

One: O praise the Lord!

All: Praise be to God! Amen.

*HYMN *O God, How We Have Wondered* #202

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Christ,
 on that night long ago,
 you knew that your hour had come.
 You knew full well what lay ahead of you.
 Your disciples loved you and followed you,
 but they had also failed you.
 They would fail you yet again that night,
 and one would betray you.
 Yet you washed their feet, as a servant would.
 even the feet of your betrayer.
 We have also loved you and followed you.
 We have also failed you,
 and we cannot comprehend the love that you show us,
 the love that is our example,
 the love that tells us to do
 as you have done for us.
 May we be like you, Master, servants of all.
 May all see how we long to be your faithful disciples.
 May all see how we love each other,
 just as you have loved us.
 In your holy name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Now the Son of Man, the one who loves us, is glorified.
All: In him, God is also glorified.
 One: The one who loves us gives us a new commandment:
All: to love one another!
 One: As the Lord has loved us, you are to love each other. Let all people
 see this love among you, and glorify God!
All: Let all people see that we belong to Christ! Amen.

SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE *(Please wave to one another)*

Let us greet each other in Christian Friendship.
 The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

HYMN “*They’ll Know We Are Christians*” *(Insert)*

LISTENING FOR GOD IN THE STORIES OF OUR TRADITION

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14
 SECOND READING: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

*HYMN “*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (vs. 1-3)*” #498

GOSPEL READING: : John 13:1-17, 31b-35

MEDITATION “A New Love Commandment”

CHANCEL CHOIR

. “*How Deep the Father’s Love for Us*” Townend & Shackley

LITURGY OF HANDWASHING

Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus:
**All: Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not regard
 equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being
 found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to
 the point of death—even death on a cross.**

Leader: Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
**All: So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven
 and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. /Philippians 2:5-11/**

PRAYER BEFORE HANDWASHING

Leader: Let us pray! Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast
 love.
All: According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
 Leader: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our
 sin.
All: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Leader: Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in
 your sight,
**All: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived
 me.**

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being;
All: therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Leader: Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean;
All: wash me, and I shall be purer than snow. /Psalm 51 adapt./

Leader pours water from a pitcher into a basin.

Leader: Almighty God, bless this water, we pray, that it may be a sign of your cleansing forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Bless me with this water, O God, that I may be immersed in a grace deeper than my sin.

Silence

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God.

All: And renew a right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast us away from your presence,

All: And do not take your holy spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to us the joy of your salvation,

All: And sustain in me a willing spirit. /Psalm 51 adapt./

Silence

Leader: Be assured that the grace of our Lord overflows for us with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. /I Timothy 1: 14-15, adapt./

All: To the Sovereign of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. /I Timothy 1:17, adapt./

Leader: Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world. And during supper Jesus, knowing that he 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

All: "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Leader: "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

All: "You will never wash my feet."

Leader: "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

All: "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Leader: "One who has bathed does not need to wash, but is entirely clean.

All: After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them,

Leader: "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."/John 13:1,3-10,12-15, adapt./

Invitation

At this time please come forward if you desire to participate in the hand washing ceremony. Leader will pour the water over the hands of people and the helper will dry them with a towel.

Leader: Remember your baptism and give thanks!

Each: Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR "The Holy One" Simms

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS TENEBRAE

One: Loving God, you care for your people. You offer us more than we need. You sent your own Son to be our Friend and Savior. Jesus healed the sick, shared food with the hungry, and made those who were outcast feel like they belonged. Jesus proclaimed your never-ending love in word and in deed. Yet, like Peter, we often deny knowing Jesus and his gospel.

All: Forgive us loving God.

SOLO "Were You There?" (Vs. 1). #229

One: Jesus showed us that the way to greatness was to be humble and to be a servant. Jesus taught us to love even our enemies, to welcome those we did not know, to see your glory in every part of creation, and in the face of every human being. Yet, like Judas, we look out for ourselves and have not truly learned what it means to love one another.

All: Forgive us, loving God.

(Lights turned down.)

Silence

SOLO "Were You There?" (Vs. 2). #229

One: In Jesus, you came to live as one of us, O God. Jesus knew fully what it meant to be human, especially knowing pain and fear in the last days. Yet Jesus was faithful to the end, stopping at nothing to prove your love for all people. While Jesus prayed in anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, his closest friends fell asleep. We, like them, so often fail to hold fast to your ideals and live the truth of our beliefs.

All: Forgive us, loving God.

(Lights turned down.)

Silence

SOLO "Were You There?" (Vs. 3). #229

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Precious Lord, too often we leave you on the cross. We have heard you teach and felt your healing touch. But somehow we prefer to leave you hanging silently on the cross. You faced the forces of violence with peace and love, and conquered them by compassion. Open our hearts to feel the love of the Creator, who desires peace above bloodshed. Forgive us for being bystanders when you, precious Lord, need us to act in love. Too often we leave you on the cross, precious Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive us still. Amen.

(Lights turned down.)

Silence

SOLO.....“Were You There?” (Vs. 4)..... #229

THE STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Please depart in silence.

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

- LITURGIST: Carol Burns
- READERS: Bobby Limbert, Judy Clark & Linda Little
- USHERS AND GREETERS: Members of Consistory



The Sunday School Group is collecting money for **Heifer International for our Lenten Project**. Concurrently, the special Lenten offering will also go towards Heifer International. Both collections will continue thru **Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**. Your support to this great cause is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

This year’s special Easter offering collected will go to the **Bell Family Shelter**.



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