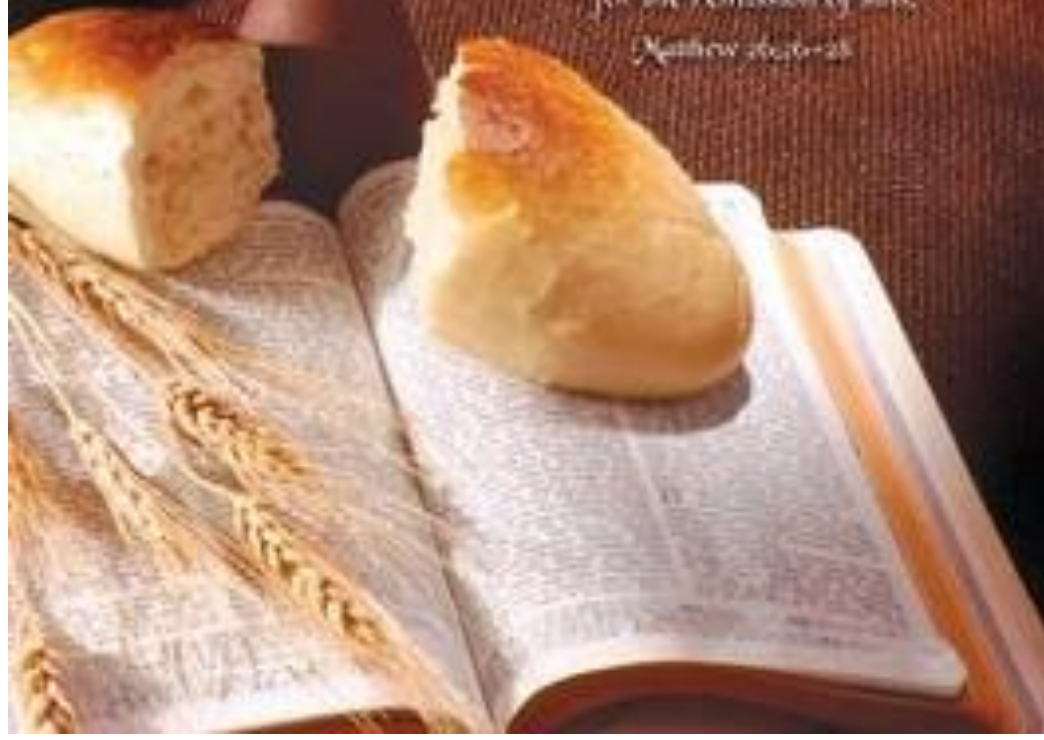


Jesus took bread

...and gave it to the disciples,
and said, Take, eat;
this is my body.
And he took the cup...
and gave it to them, saying,
Drink ye all of it;
For this is my blood
of the new testament,
which is shed for many
for the remission of sins.

(Matthew 26:26-28)



WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE
MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2, 2026
7:00PM

THE PRELUDE“*Not My Will, But Thine*”Peterson

GATHERING WORDS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

One: Holy One, we come in remembrance of you.

All: Wash us clean, O Lord.

One: The bread of forgiveness reminds us of your love.

All: Wash us clean, O Lord.

One: We seek the cup of the new covenant.

All: Wash us clean, O Lord.

One: Let us join together in praise and thanksgiving.

All: We remember the full extent of God’s love. Let us worship God!

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

Your love calls us here, Gracious One, calling us to dine with you and to be instruments of your love. Gather us in Jesus’ name, that we may offer him the full measure of our devotion. Amen.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray!

All: Loving and gracious God, we need your grace. We ask your forgiveness for the times we have acted out of fear rather than faith. We are all too like the disciples, who fled in fear. Forgive our forgetfulness, our difficulty in remembering your never failing love and power, our flight from responsibility and call. This night, tomorrow, and in the days ahead, help us to leave our fears behind and live out of your strength and hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The One who loves us, gives us a new commandment, to love one another! As the Lord has loved us, you are to love each other. Let all see this love among you, and glorify God.

All: Let all people see that we belong to Jesus Christ! Amen.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

One: Let us share God's love with one another, and find the peace that comes from sharing Christ's blessing.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

LISTENING FOR GOD IN THE STORIES OF OUR TRADITION

Recalling the Passover

For thousands of years, people have observed the feast of Passover as recorded in the book of Exodus.

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14

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

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

THIRD READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

CHANCEL CHOIR "*Behold the Lamb*" *Townend & Getty*

MEDITATION "*Meals and Memories*" Pastor Melinda

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(All are welcome to partake of communion)

HYMN OF COMMUNION *Let Us Break Bread Together (vs. 1-2)* #330

Communion Prayer

One: We bless you, Holy God.

We bless and call upon your name;

For your name is great and your majesty inspires us.

You are the source of all that is:

From the dawning of creation
To the redemption of the world
You grant us freedom in love.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion,

Our brother and Lord, Jesus, took bread, broke and gave it to the disciples, saying:

All: “This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

One: And, in like manner, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying,

All: “This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.”

One: Holding the bread and the cup ever before us
We boldly claim, with joy:

All: Christ has died Christ is risen Christ will come again.

One: And so we remember.

We remember who we were born to be.

We remember who we were born to serve.

We remember the One who was born and served,

So that the world would never be the same,

So that the world could live in freedom.

And so we pray.

We pray for the day when

Healing and love reign without interruption,

When freedom is real for all,

When liberty touches everyone,

When joy is complete.

We pray. We pray for your Spirit to move among us
And to bless these gifts of bread and juice before us.

**All: Draw us together as
one with your church
one with your creation
one in you.**

PARTAKING IN THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For these gifts, O God, we thank you.

For your grace, O God, we praise you.

For your love, O God, we adore you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

Silence

(Lights turned down.)

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.

Silence

(Lights turned down.)

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.

Silence

(Lights turned down.)

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.

Silence

(Lights turned down.)

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:** Nathan Limbert
- **READERS:** Thank You to all of our readers
- **USHER:** Sue Besecker
- **GREETERS:** Members of Consistory

Special Offering

*Beginning **February 22, 2026**, the first Sunday in Lent, the Sunday School will begin collecting money for Heifer International for our Lenten Project. This collection will continue thru **Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**. Your support to this great cause is greatly appreciated!*



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

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here at
Shiloh UCC,
where God is still speaking."*

THE CHURCH STAFF

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