

Welcome to this hour of worship at
Shiloh United Church of Christ

2251 Willow Road, York, Pennsylvania 17408

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APRIL 1, 2021

Shiloh United Church of Christ is called to show Christ's love for all through witness, word, and worship."

**A Service of Tenebrae:
Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m.**

The Prelude to Christian Worship *"The Upper Room"* Southbridge

Gathering Words

Welcome this evening to a celebration of hope and joy. On this dark night we have come to remember the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples. The Lenten Journey has brought us to this place, past many barriers, over difficult spiritual terrain. Now we are invited to the feast, the time of remembrance. Welcome, dear friends, welcome to worship and to the table of the Lord.

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

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

All: a meal of bread and wine.

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 always remember the full extent of his love. Let us worship God!

***Prayer of Invocation**

Giver of Life, from the beginning of time you call us to yourself. In ways too numerous to mention, we fail to respond. Forgive us, we pray. Our limited understanding of others gets in the way of fellowship with those different from ourselves. Our limited vision of community gets in the way of your call to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to seek justice and peace for all. Replace our arrogance, Merciful One, with the humility and caring service Jesus modeled, for truly we are not greater than our Teacher and Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.

Hymn *"What Wondrous Love is This (vs. 1 and 2)"* See Insert

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

Now the Son of Man, the one who loves us, is glorified.
In him, God is also glorified.
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.
Let all see how you belong to Christ!

Sharing the blessing of Christ's Peace
May the peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Solo by Stephanie Limbert

"The Power of the Cross"Getty and Townend

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.

READING Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Meditation

Imagine yourself and your family in this text, among the Israelites who were enslaved and desperate. What thoughts might go through your mind as you follow these instructions and prepare this meal? How would you explain to children why you are eating "hurriedly"? Are you excited? Fearful? What images of oppression and liberation come to mind? Where do you experience the need for freedom in your life, in your community, in our world? What is the cost of freedom?

Hymn

"O God, How We Have Wandered (vs. 1 and 3)" See Insert

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

Hymn

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (vs. 1-3)" See Insert

READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Meditation

This commemorative act, central to our tradition, comes alive for us each time we gather at the Communion Table. In re-enacting this event, what is it that we receive from the Lord and pass on to future generations? At this table, and especially on this night, we stand remembering our past, faithful in our present, and hoping in God's future, proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again. (1 Cor 11:26) Certainly we remember Christ's death when we gather here, but what does a future rich in grace and hope look like, when Christ will come again? What does this moment feel like, entwining memory, faith, and hope? Do you welcome Christ when you sit down to break bread with friends? Whom does Christ call you to invite to join you at the Lord's table?

Meditation "Holy Food"

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
(All are welcome to partake of communion)

Hymn of Communion "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" See Insert

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

Post-Communion Prayer

**For these gifts, O God, we thank you.
For your grace, O God, we praise you.
For your love, O God, we adore you. 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.

(Lights turned down.)

Silence

HYMN *Were You There? (vs. 1)*See Insert

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

HYMN *Were You There? (vs. 2)*See Insert

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

HYMN *Were You There? (vs. 3)*See Insert

Union 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

HYMN *Were You There? (vs. 4)*See Insert

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.

- LITURGIST: Brad Jacobs
- We would like to thank everyone who participated in today's service!!

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