

April 17, 2025 | Maundy Thursday | 7:00 PM

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ



Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.*

We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP - ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome, Scripture and Prayer

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (pg. 605)

Prelude – *For quiet preparation and reflection*

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

†Call to Worship

L: We gather in remembrance. We remember a night from long, long ago; a night in which events culminated with Peter disowning Jesus.

P: ***It began with a plot against Jesus, a plot hastened by the betrayal of Judas; it ended with the disciples falling away, leaving Jesus alone before his accusers.***

L: It included a celebration of the Passover, recalling the Israelites exodus from Egypt; with an awareness of God’s presence throughout their history, yet they fell away.

P: ***There was the humble washing of feet, an act by which Jesus set the example to do for one another what Jesus has done for each of us – to serve one another.***

L: Prior to his arrest in the dark of night, Jesus prayed at Gethsemane, praying for his Father’s will, leaving us with the prayerful example: “not as I will, but as you will.”

P: ***As I remember that night in our worship on this night, I praise God for His unfailing love of me, even through the times when I have denied Him, or when I have chosen my will over His, I am aware of God’s care for me, so I come to worship my Lord.***

L: We gather in remembrance. May we remember the love of our Lord, the devotion of our Lord, the last supper of our Lord. Christ gave himself that we would have life, so let us worship with joy and celebration in our hearts, as we remember.

†Opening Hymn

#446, “I Will Serve Thee”

†Unison Prayer of Confession: ***Lord Jesus, a difficult part of that night was the betrayal by one of your disciples. We may not understand his reasons, nor his ending his life, but we can understand his remorse, his awareness of his sin. I come before you, confessing my own sin, offering my remorse, seeking your forgiveness and pledging myself to your will for my life. Help me tonight; help me to understand the depth of your sacrifice, that I will be strengthened and renewed in my devotion to you. In your name, I pray. Amen.***

†Words of Assurance (Pastor): May the words of Jesus in Matthew 26:28 fill you with assurance: “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” By his shed blood, and through our confession of Jesus as Lord, your sins are forgiven, praise be to God. Amen, and Amen!

†Hymn Response

#342, “Just As I Am”

Prayer of Dedication and Evening Offering

Offertory

“Think About His Love”

Reading from God's Word

Luke 22:7-30 (p. 1043)

Sermon

"Lessons from the Meal"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Invitation, Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Special Music - Praise Team

"Remembrance (The Communion Song)"

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Blessing

†Closing Hymn

bulletin page #5, "Here in Our Upper Room"

Benediction

Stripping of the Sanctuary

†Please Depart in Silent Meditation

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S! Our Communion Table is open to all who confess their sins and accept Christ as Lord and Savior. Juice is served in the trays of the cup.

THE LAST SUPPER is remembered not as the Jewish Passover, but as the Lord's Supper into which Jesus transformed it for his disciples. Instead of celebrating the escape from slavery in Egypt it became a celebration of his passing over from death to life in which his followers share. "Maundy" is the English form of the Latin word "mandatum" meaning commandment. This refers to Jesus' new commandment "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

THE STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY - Our service for Maundy Thursday concludes with the stripping of the sanctuary, which is done in silence and in an unhurried, orderly fashion. The practice dates from the seventh century and is a ceremonial custom. In silence and in shadows, communion vessels, table cloths, pulpit and lectern hangings, banners, candles and other liturgical objects are sensitively removed, thus dramatizing the desolation, abandonment and darkness of the passion and death of our Lord. The sanctuary remains bare until the beginnings of the Easter celebration. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.

OUR LOOSE OFFERINGS support the ministries of the Arole's in India and Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.² Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.¹² How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.¹⁶ O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains.¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord -- in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.


Luke 22:7-30 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters,¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'"¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you

before I suffer.¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you."¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."²¹ But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.²² The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."²³ They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.²⁴ Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.²⁵ Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors."²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials.²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Here in our upper room

450

HOLLEY LM



1 Here in our up - per room with you, a - round your
 2 As you our bless'd Ex - am - ple, taught, we kneel to
 3 We share with you the feast of love as hearts are
 4 With heart, and not with hands a - lone, we keep the



hal - lowed ta - ble, Lord, may we with deep hu -
 serve our neigh - bor's need, the cleans - ing of your
 knit in one ac - cord. Oh, may your Spir - it
 or - di - nance a - new, and through these sa - cred



mil - i - ty ful - fill the pre - cepts of your word.
 Spir - it sought in heart and mind, in thought and deed.
 in us move our wills to love you more, dear Lord.
 sym - bols prove in serv - ing oth - ers we serve you.

Text: Paul M. Robinson, 1949, *The Brethren Hymnal*, 1951, revised 1990

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Music: George Howe, *Brethren Academy's Collection of Church Music*, 3rd ed., 1835

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Accompanist: Lynne Christman

Song Leader: Andrew Rohrs

Sound Tech: James Grime

Live Stream Tech: Cayla Swisher

EW Tech: Jenna Stuckey

Head Usher: Doug & Nancy Rupp

Communion Servers: Ryan Christman, Ann Grime, Sarah Kinsman, Nancy Rupp,
Darlene Steiner, David Stuckey, Carrie Wooley, Roger Zimmerman

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Friday – **GOOD FRIDAY**

7:00 pm Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday – **EASTER SUNDAY**

6:30 am Life Planning prepares Easter Breakfast

7:00 am Sunrise Worship Service (Senior High Youth leading)

8:00 am Easter Breakfast in the Parish Hall (Life Planning hosting)

8:45 am Easter Egg Hunt (Junior Youth Fellowship hosting)

9:15 am Sunday School/Faith Village

10:30 am Easter Worship in the Sanctuary and on Live Stream

MOTHER’S ROOM/DIAPER CHANGING STATIONS/NURSERY CARE

Nursery Care is not offered during tonight’s service; however, parents with young children are more than welcome to use the Nursery on the second floor labeled “Artisan’s Tent” if your littles get the evening jitters! We also have a Mother’s Room located outside of the sanctuary for nursing mothers and/or mothers with young infants and toddlers. Diaper changing stations are located in both the Mother’s Room and the Nursery and televisions are broadcasting the service in both rooms. An usher will gladly direct you if needed!

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available at a table in the Sanctuary narthex.

HEARING ASSISTANCE is provided for hearing aids with a “loop system” switch position.



Maundy Thursday (Tanner Olson, Written to Speak)

Jesus sat shoulder to shoulder with those who were closest
to him for one final meal before His betrayal.

His time on earth was coming to a close.

Soon, He would be going to the cross.

Pain. Suffering. Torture. Embarrassment. Death.

All were in His near future.

Yet, for one last time He gathered together
with those He was closest to.

Even those who would betray Him.

And this meal was unlike any other.

He broke bread and poured wine.

He spoke words of life, hope, and power;
words that would echo for centuries.

He washed the dirt from their feet.

He gave them a meal of a lifetime.

And He did this all for us as well.

All so that we may have everlasting life
through His life, death, and resurrection.

Can you imagine being in that room?

To witness a humility unlike any other.

To witness a love unlike any other.

To witness a hope unlike any other.

To taste the bread and wine.

To feel the water fall across your dirty feet.

To sit in the presence of a King.

And through all of this, He claims us His.

He claims us significant.

He welcomes us to the table.



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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