**March 28, 2024**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Holy Communion**

**A group of people around a table

Description automatically generated**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024**

# **Congregations meets in the back of the church**

**Welcome & Prayer**

# **GREETING**

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**P: Christ has prepared a feast of love.**

**HYMN** *“Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast”*

Come, sinners to the gospel feast, let every soul be Jesus’ guest.

You need not one be left behind, for God has bid all humankind.

Do not begin to make excuse; ah! do not you His grace refuse;

your worldly cares and pleasures leave, and take what Jesus has to give.

Come and partake the gospel feast, be saved from sin, in Jesus rest;

O taste the goodness of our God, and eat His flesh and drink His blood.

See Him set forth before your eyes; behold the bleeding sacrifice;

His offered love make haste to embrace, and freely now be saved by grace.

You who believe His record true shall sup with Him and He with you;

come to the feast, be saved from sin, for Jesus waits to take you in.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Most merciful God, You have invited us to share in the supper which Your Son**

**gave to His Church to proclaim His death until He comes again: We pray to be**

**nourished in Your presence and united in Your love, so that we would live**

**lives worthy of Your calling us to be Your children. Amen.**

## Silent Meditation………………….Words of Pardon

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Exodus 12:1-14*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household; and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever.

**PSALTER** *Psalm 116*

Leader: I love the Lord, who has heard my voice and my supplications,

**People: and has inclined His ear to me whenever I called.**

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all my benefits? I will lift up the cup of salvation

**People: and call on the name of the Lord,**

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

**People: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful ones.**

Leader: O Lord, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the child of Your handmaid.

You have loosed my bonds.

## People: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord, in the presence of all His people,

**People: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in Your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for[a] you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**HYMN** *“Jesu, Jesu”*

*Refrain:* Jesu, Jesu, fill us with Your love,

show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.

Kneels at the feet of His friends, silently washing their feet,

Master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*

Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,

neighbors are near and far away. *Refrain*

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;

all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*

**GOSPEL LESSON** Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet *John 13:1-17*

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded. He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part in me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,[a] but he is clean all over; and you[b] are clean, but not every one of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “You are not all clean.”

When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant[c] is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

# **Meditation**

**Hymn** “The Servant Song”

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow ‘til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,

Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too

***Serving others as Christ served His Disciples on the night before His arrest.***

***Washing feet regularly was a necessary in the time of Jesus. The basic shoe was a sandal, and nearly all roads and even many floors in homes were dust. It became a basic act of hospitality to make sure that guests in homes received a foot washing, typically from a child or a servant, as part of their welcome into the home.***

***Following the example and obeying the new commandment of Jesus when he washed his disciples' feet. The "new commandment" is to "love one another as I have loved you." And Jesus says he has set the example of washing his disciples' feet with the expectation we will wash one another's feet.***

***Please follow Pastor’s directions as you have the option to participate.***

***You are invited to sing***

*Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service, Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*

*Where Charity and Love Prevail, They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love,*

***SERVING EACH OTHER WITH PRAYER***

***The Bible commands us to pray for one another, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working” (James 5:16, ESV). God manifests Himself in many ways when praying together and for each other.***

***Please join in groups of two or three, and serve each other by sharing prayer. Sit together in the pews, take your time, hear each other and pray for each other. When your group has finished, stay seated together in silent prayer. When all groups are ready, you will be called to move forward to the pews in front of the sanctuary.***

**Prayer Music** Sweet Hour of Prayer, I Need Thee Every Hour, Sweet, Sweet Spirit

**Please move forward and sit in the front pews of the sanctuary.**

*Hymn of Preparation: Be Present At Our Table Lord*

### THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Lift up your hearts.

**WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.**

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,**

**HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY,**

**HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES**

**IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.**

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.**

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

***Singing of THE LORD'S PRAYER–***

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,**on earth as it is in heaven.**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom,*

*and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

BREAKING THE BREAD…………………………………GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Hymns: *“Jesus Paid It All”*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Eternal God, we give You thanks for this grace-filled act**

**in which You have given Yourself to us.**

**Enable us to go into the world in the strength of Your Spirit,**

**to extend Your grace through our hands and hearts to others,**

**in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**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 call 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.

Let Your kingdom come, O Lord.

Please be seated

**STRIPPING THE ALTAR**

**Reader One**: After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in our Lord’s earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize His suffering and death.

**Reader Two:** If you have been asked to carry an item, please remove it and take it to the back of the church and place it on the table. Be seated in the back pews.

As we strip the altar we will listen to Psalm 22.

Please wait until all lights have been dimmed, and then SILENTLY exit the church building.

**Hymn: Psalm 22 Verses 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24**

Refrain: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me, they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads. "He relied on the lord, let him deliver him, let him rescue him if he loves him"

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me. They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. But you, O Lord, be not far from me. O my help, hasten to aid me

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you; "You who fear the Lord, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel"

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**Screen Benediction**

**As you are ready, please leave in silence**