



# Maundy Thursday

## March 28, 2024

*"Sacrifice is the language of love."  
—Unknown*

### PRELUDE

*"God So Loved the World"*

*arr: Griffith J. Jones*

### GREETING AND INVITATION

*Rev. Christina Williams*

L: Friends in Christ, peace be with you on this holy night.

**All: Peace be with you.**

L: Why do we gather? What is this night?

**All: This night is joyous, fierce, tender, terrible.**

L: We begin in light, with memories and stories, friends, and feasting.

**All: We end in shadows, with a queasy fright.**

L: We begin as the friends of Jesus did long ago: together, as one.

**All: We end as they did: scattered in the dark.**

L: We begin as they did: singing of love and deliverance.

**All: We end as they did: without a single sound.**

L: Friends, be at peace on this holy night.

**All: We enter with open hearts.**

### UNISON OPENING PRAYER

*Melessa Fox, Deacon*

God of deliverance and love, look with pleasure on your people who gather here. Send your Spirit to embrace us, so that with hearts for a time made free of care, we may receive in abundance the blessings of this night. With Jesus we pray that whatever may come in life or in death, your will, not ours, may be done. Glory to you, yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

## OPENING SONG

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” v. 1-3

*Insert*

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*Melessa Fox, Deacon*

Jesus said: If anyone has something against you, before you come to the table with gifts, make peace. Then bring your gifts, then bring your lives. Dear friends, let us make peace in our hearts. Then, let us lay down the burdens that keep us from loving each other and our God.

## SILENCE FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Rev. Christina Williams*

Beloved, by the mercy of God we have put down our burdens at the feet of the one who in suffering love laid down his life for us. Rejoice and be glad: Pardon, healing and peace are ours through Jesus Christ, good brother, and friend.

## SERVICE OF COMMUNION

## SONG OF INVITATION

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life” v.1

*Black 331*

## INVITATION

L: Beloved, let us celebrate with Jesus at the table of peace.

**All: For he loved his own, even to the end.**

L: Let us eat the Feast with him.

**All: For now, nothing can separate us from his love.**

L: And let us love one another well,

**All: For he laid down his life for us all.**

## REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, we remember Jesus. We remember that he longed to celebrate the Passover with his friends.

**All: He arranged for a meal, his last in this life.**

L: We remember that he gave them a new commandment:

**All: “Love one another as I have loved you.”**

L: We remember that he gave them an example:

**All: He knelt before them and washed their feet.**

L: We remember that his betrayer was with him.

All: Jesus loved and served him too.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## INVITATION

## SHARING BREAD AND CUP BY INTINCTION

*Come forward to receive the bread and then dip it in the juice.*

## \*UNISON THANKSGIVING

Thank you, Holy God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the fruits of this holy communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## HYMN

"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life" v. 2&3

*Black 331*

## SILENT REFLECTION

## SERVICE OF LIGHT AND SHADOWS

## THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL | Matthew 26:20-25

Instrumental Response

"When Twilight Comes"

*Dapit Hapon*

## **THE SHADOW OF THE AGONY OF SPIRIT AND ARREST | Matthew 26:36-50**

Taizé response

“Stay with Me” 3x

*Insert*

## **THE SHADOW OF DENIAL | Matthew 26:69-75**

Poetic Response

“Denial”

*Poem by Steve Garnass-Holmes*

## **THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION | Matthew 27 excerpts**

Instrumental response

“He Never Said a Mumbalin’ Word”

*W&R 280*

## **THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION AND HUMILIATION | Matthew 27:33-43**

Instrumental Response

“When Jesus Wept”

*arranged: Douglas E. Wagner*

## **THE SHADOW OF DEATH | Matthew 27:45-54**

Sung Response

“What Wondrous Love is This” v. 1&3

*Black 223*

*The Christ Candle is Removed*

## **THE SHADOW OF BURIAL | Matthew 27:57-60**

Sung Response

“Jesus Remember Me” 3x

*Insert*

*The Christ Candle Is Restored*

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Were You There?” v 1-3

*Black 229*

## **\*DISMISSAL**

L: May Jesus Christ who for our sakes became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you.

**All: Amen.**

*The people leave in silence.*

## **Ministering to Us Today**

Melessa Fox, Deacon and Rev. Christina Williams will be leading us this evening. We are grateful to Stephanie Miles for providing the music; to Dennis Fox, our technical staff; Lay readers David Kayajan & Scott Burk; and to Betsy Woodley & crew for hospitality. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.