

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin**

**April 17, 2025**



**Maundy Thursday**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

April 17, 2025

*Maundy Thursday*

6:30 pm

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Maundy Thursday is the day we remember Jesus washing his disciples' feet and sharing a final meal with them. During that meal, Jesus transformed a simple loaf of bread and cup of wine into a sacramental meal so disciples of every time and place can encounter Jesus and take him into themselves and their lives.

**GATHERING**

**GREETING**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** We have gathered together this Lenten season.

**P:** **We have sung, listened to scripture, and joined our hearts and minds to God.**

**L:** We lighted candles as symbols of our prayers rising to God.

**P:** **We prayed for the people we love. We prayed for ourselves. We prayed for people we will never meet.**

**L:** We prayed about our hopes and dreams, our concerns and fears.

**P:** **We prayed for the environment and problems facing the world.**

**L:** We prayed for those who hunger and thirst; some for food and drink, others for justice and righteousness.

**P:** **We said "Amen!" entrusting our prayers and our lives to God.**

**L:** Tonight we gather to remember Jesus sharing a last meal with the disciples. We celebrate this same meal ourselves, following Jesus' directions.

**All:** **Come, let us worship.**

**\*HYMN**

***Now It Is Evening***

**Blue #627**

*(Verse 1: All, Verse 2: High Voices, Verse 3: Low Voices, Verse 4: All)*

**L:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**P:** **And also with you.**

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

**L:** Let us come to God, confessing our sin.

**P:** **God is gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love.**

**L:** This evening, Lord God, we admit to underestimating our influence on other people. We have used words to hurt, or we stayed silent when we should have spoken. We have not lived up to the trust others have placed in us. We pray,

**P: Christ have mercy on us.**

**L:** We admit to not acting as your disciples. We have withheld kindness. We have not reconciled with those we have hurt. We care more about ourselves than we care about our neighbors and their needs and hopes. We pray,

**P: Christ have mercy on us.**

**L:** We admit to longing for an easier gospel, a lighter cross, a less demanding savior. We protect our time when we should have offered our hands and energy. We strive for perfection when faithfulness is required. We pray,

**P: Christ have mercy on us.**

**L:** We admit that the creation cries out around us, and yet we close our ears. We have neglected your call to be tender protectors of the earth, sea, and skies, as well as all who live on this magnificent planet. We pray,

**P: Christ have mercy on us. Amen.**

### **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**L:** It is true that we have sinned. It is a greater truth that we are forgiven. I say to all who humbly seek the grace and mercy of God: your sins are forgiven. You are freed from the past.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**L:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**(Please greet one another with signs of peace)**

#### ***Bless the Lord***

The musical score for "Bless the Lord" is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 76 and a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system of music has a melody line and a bass line. The melody line has a treble clef and the bass line has a bass clef. The lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." are written below the melody line. The second system of music also has a melody line and a bass line. The lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." are written below the melody line. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines. Chord symbols are written above the melody line: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, F, A in the first system, and Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm in the second system.

## SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION

The Passover in Egypt – Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Art: *Signs on the Door*, James Tissot

Reflection

### ***Let Us Be Bread***

Refrain

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,  
life for the world. Let us be wine, love free-ly poured.  
Let us be one in the Lord.

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the refrain, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The music ends with a double bar line.

Jesus Feeds the Disciples – Luke 22:7-20

Art: *The Last Supper*, Timothy Schmaltz

Reflection

### ***Eat This Bread***

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time, key of D major. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first two staves contain the first line of the refrain, and the next two staves contain the second line. The music ends with a double bar line.

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet – John 13:1-17  
Art: *Jesus Washing the Feet of St. Peter*, Sadao Watanabe  
Reflection

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

Je - su Je - su fill us with your love, show  
us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

The musical score is written on two staves in 6/8 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics.

A New Commandment – John 13:31-35  
Art: *Embrace of Peace*, George Tooker  
Reflection

*Live in Charity*

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,  
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The musical score is written on two staves in 2/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes chords (F, C, Dm, Bb, D, G, C, Gm) and a triplet of eighth notes in the final line of music.

## THE INVITATION TO THE MEAL

**L:** Dearly Beloved, this is no ordinary meal, for Jesus himself has invited us, and in it we experience his presence: in the bread, in the cup, in the sharing, and in one another.

**P:** **Thanks be to God!**

**L:** Jesus' ministry was teaching and healing. It was also eating and drinking, with friends, with strangers, even with enemies. The accusation against him was true: "He eats with sinners," and so he invites us to dine with him, in love, in community, in forgiveness.

**P:** **Thanks be to God!**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**P:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**L:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**L:** It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise, O God, Creator of this world and all that is to come. You brought creation out of chaos, light out of darkness. You formed us in your image, breathed into us the breath of life, and set before us the ways of life and death. You promised to be our God, condemn powers that oppress us, and set us free to be your beloved people. Even when our love fails, you remain steadfast and offer the possibility of wholeness.

**P:** **Thanks be to God!**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**L:** When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**P:** **We remember Jesus' death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.**

**L:** Lord Jesus, reveal yourself to us in this holy meal. Raise us up as your body for the world.

**P:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**L:** Send now we pray, your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine that they become for us Jesus' body and blood.

**P:** **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

**L:** Join our prayers to those of your servants of every time and every place:

**All:** 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**L:** Come, for all things are ready.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

All Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. The bread is gluten-free. The cup is alcohol-free. Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.

#### ***I am the Bread of Life***

*(Cantors sing verses; All sing the refrain)*

Refrain

A E A D E

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day.”

A D A E A

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The tempo is marked with a '7' (seven beats per measure). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first line of the refrain, with lyrics 'And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,'. The second system contains the second line of the refrain, with lyrics 'and I will raise you up on the last day.'.

#### ***They'll Know We Are Christians***

**Blue #595**

#### ***Come, Let Us Eat***

**Blue #694**

**L:** God of Compassion,

**All:** Thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. Just as your love flowed out from Jesus the Christ to all those around him, let your love flow out through us. Even though we are broken, and despite our disbelief, we pray that your holy food will nourish us and bind us together as your people. Amen.



- L: After Jesus had taught, fed, and washed his disciples' feet, the time had come.  
P: **They sang a psalm and set out for a garden called Gethsemane.**  
L: Jesus was anguish. He pleaded with is disciples...  
P: **"Stay here. Stay with me. Stay awake while I pray."**

### *Stay Here*

Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.

Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

- L: Despite his pleas, his repeated pleas...  
P: **The disciples fell asleep.**

### STRIPPING OF THE TABLE

### *Stay Here*

Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.

Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

*The worship service continues on Good Friday at 6:30 pm.*