

Jordan Station United Church

April 1, 2021 – 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday - The Last Supper

"Remembering"

Call to Worship

One: Peace be with you. **All:** And also with you.
One: Christ is in the midst of us **All:** Christ is, and Christ will be!
One: Lift up your hearts. **All:** We lift them up to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to Christ **All:** It is right to do so.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn: As We Gather at Your Table

(Voices United #457, verse 1)

Opening Prayer

One: We gather in the Upper Room. Shadows of the past week swirl around us.

All: The air is thick with hope and fear. What will happen next?

One: The meal is beginning.

All: Jesus breaks bread. He blesses the cup.

One: The kingdom of God is revealed in our midst.

All: And so through a meal shared with friends, Jesus proclaims the Good News. God is with us, God's freely given Grace and Mercy is with us. Thanks be to God!

Scripture: Luke 22:7-23

An account of the Last Supper

Song: Don't Be Afraid (More Voices #90) (Sung 2x)

The Meal: An Invitation to share in the Lord's Supper

One: In the beginning, you God gave birth to the earth and all its creatures—the fish of the sea, animals of the land, the birds and butterflies of the air.

All: You gave us the gift of naming and the company of one another. You asked only that we welcome you into our hearts, walk and talk with you, and care for your garden. But we wanted more and took it.

One: Through Sarah and Abraham, Moses and Miriam and others of old, you called us into abundance, welcoming us into your land of promise.

All: You asked only that we welcome you and love one another. But we want more and took it.

One: You called us through your prophets, women and men of wisdom and courage, to return to your way of love and justice.

All: You asked only that we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. But we wanted our own way, and we took it.

One: In the fullness of your time, you sent us your most appealing invitation. Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph walked among us.

All: In the signs and wonders he performed, in the teaching he gave, he revealed your deepest desire—welcoming us to your festive table. But we preferred to be with our won kind, to find our own happiness. In our fear we killed him, hanging him on a cross.

One: But you reached out and gently removed Jesus from the clutches of brokenness and death, breathing in him a life beyond our life. As a butterfly lives beyond the dreams of a caterpillar, so Jesus lives a life beyond our imagining.

All: Moving with compassion instead of rage, you breathed on Jesus' followers bringing them to life in your spirit, life beyond our wildest dreams. Empowered by your spirit, women and men of faith through the ages have moved among us. They call us to stop our futile efforts at making our own happiness and security. They call us to turn around, spread our wings and fly. They call us to join in your feast of love and service to others.

One: God, breathe your Holy Spirit in us that we, too might be born to life beyond our imagining, a life of resurrected living. Breathe your spirit on these gifts, sign and symbol of your sharing and our living. In faith and by the unity of your spirit may we be one with Christ and one with all people of faith.

All: As we are welcomed to this fragrant family feast, so may we welcome others. Amen

One: As seekers and followers we have the gift of remembering. And so we remember a supper for Jesus and his friends gathered to celebrate the Passover: an ancient liberation of the Jews from Egypt's slavery, ancient, and yet fresh.

All: At the Passover every year, it is said:

One: In every generation, each of us must feel as if we ourselves had engaged in the struggle for freedom, and gone forth from Egypt. Let us join in our call to the Passover Supper:

All: This is the bread of affliction, the miserable bread that our people ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat it with us. Let all who have nowhere to go, come and share the Passover feast with us.

One: This year, we eat as strangers, in a land not truly ours.

All: next year, may we live in a land made whole and free.

One: This year, we are still an oppressed people.

All: Next year, all people will be free!

(passage adapted from Exodus 6:2-8, 10-11)

One: As seekers and followers of Jesus we remember. In his last hours among us, Jesus and his friends gathered together in an upper room. During supper Jesus took some bread, saying, "Blessed is the Holy one of Israel, Sovereign of all that is, who brings forth bread from the earth." After the blessing, Jesus broke the bread and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take this and eat it; this is my body.

All: Blessed is the holy one of Israel.

One: Then Jesus took the cup saying, "Blessed is the holy one of Israel, Sovereign of all that is who creates the fruit of the vine." Having offered thanks, he gave the cup to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, never again shall I drink from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew with you in the kingdom of my Father."

All: Blessed is the holy one of Israel.

One: Loving God, we offer you this bread and this cup, remembering Jesus' death and celebrating Christ's resurrection. You have made Jesus Christ the light of the nations and the bearer of justice to the ends of the earth. Therefore we proclaim our hope.

All: Dying, Christ destroyed our death; Rising, Christ restored our life. Christ will come in glory.

One: In Christ's hope, and as your people we praise you. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most Holy.

We Share in the Meal (Distribution of Elements)

the bread of life

the cup of blessing (juice or wine) for the journey

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Hymn: As We Gather at Your Table

(Voices United #457, verses 2 & 3)

Words of Mission and Blessing

Go into the evening, out into the night, under the shadow of the cross.

Go with our wounded Saviour. Go with our grieving Holy Spirit.

Go with our waiting God. Go and hold on.

An Easter morning is about to dawn.

Go and may Christ's Peace go with you now as always.

Amen

(Service with communion, adapted from Gathering Lent/ Easter/Pentecost 1994. pg. 26. Copyright Heather Murray Elkins. Drew University Madison, NJ 07940.

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'Invitation to the Lord's Table' and 'Remembering' are adapted from a service written by barb janes: "Maundy Thursday Worship" in Courage for Hallelujahs, Alternate Worship Resources for Lent and Easter, Keri K. Wehlander, Ed. Toronto: UCPH, 1997; pp. 19, 44-50.)