

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



April 6, 2023
Maundy Thursday

“Moving Forward United in Faith”

“Committed to Christ, United by Love. We are about God, Christ, the Word, and the Future. No matter who you are or where you are on Life’s journey, you are welcome here. We are Bethany United Church of Christ.”

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 6, 2023

7 PM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany.

**(* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE
(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Cross Medley" ... arr. J. Innes

Piano – Rebecca Kesselring Organ – Susan Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Today is Maundy Thursday, the day Jesus gathered with His closest friends in an Upper Room.

C: Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another as He loved us.

P: Jesus washed the feet of His disciples demonstrating the way of servanthood we are to follow.

C: We begin our worship this evening in the name of Jesus, who gave His life for all. Amen.

*HYMN #274 "An Upper Room with Evening Lamps"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we have denied Your intentions for us. We have preferred our way to Christ's way. We have disobeyed Your commandments to love others as we love ourselves. Forgive us, restore us and lead us to lives of service; through Jesus Christ, who came not to

be served, but to serve, and who served You even to death, for our redemption. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In the cross before us, we see God's amazing love for all people.

All: In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin anew. Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #356 I Will Sing of My Redeemer

I will sing of my Redeemer and his wondrous love to me; on the cruel cross he suffered from the curse to set me free. Sing, O sing of my Redeemer, with his blood he purchased me, on the cross he sealed my pardon, paid the debt, and made me free.

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 12: 1-14

*John: 13: 1-17, 31-35

Pastor: This is the Good News

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION "Basin Believers"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Take My Yoke Upon You" ...Williams/Nolan
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Savior Thy Dying Love
**Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me, Nor should I
ought withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee; In love my soul**

**would bow, My heart fulfil its vow, Some offering bring
Thee now, Something for Thee.**

***PRAYER OF RESPONSE:**

Generous God whose love knows no boundaries, bless this offering, we ask. We dedicate all that we give, to your loving purpose; bringing in those who have been cast out; standing strong on behalf of those who are weak; speaking out Your Word of joy and justice for all people. May Your loving realm increase! In Jesus name. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(We are receiving the elements by Intinction. Pastor Todd will offer the bread and you will dip in the chalice of choice, wine or juice.)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

We give thanks, O God, for Your free gift of love offered this night. You have refreshed us at the table of mercy, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Now send us forth in the spirit of Christ, that we, too, may become servants to one another and the world around us. In Jesus name. Amen.

***HYMN: # 251 "I Come to the Cross"**

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING RESPONSE: #254 Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley vs.2**

Jesus prayed for his disciples; he prayed alone for you and me. O, nobody else could bear such sorrow; he prayed alone for you and me.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



SCRIPTURE

Exodus 12: 1-14 NRSV

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:
2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13 The blood

shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

John 13: 1 – 17, 31 - 35 NRSV

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

