

The Plymouth Church in Framingham

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 14, 2022



I give you a new commandment: love one another
just as I have loved you.

By this, everyone will know you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35

A note on Holy Week scripture readings

inspired by Rev. Mary Luti

Given our nation's history of anti-Semitism, we take special care in telling tonight's story. The gospels frequently refer to *loudaîos* – often translated into English as “the Jews.” The Greek word is a descriptor of the citizens – Jewish and non-Jewish – living within the borders of Israel. It was a reference to *nationality*, not ethnicity or religious tradition. Tonight, we have corrected this mistranslation by referring to “Judeans.”

The text also refers to “chief priests and leaders of the people.” The gospel authors are concerned with those persons who collaborated with the Roman authorities. Despite their official capacity within the Temple hierarchy, they were not genuinely leaders of the people. These individuals were mistrusted and maligned for their support of systemic oppression and colonialism.

As 21st Century Christians, we must always remember that Jesus was Jewish. He was crucified, in part, for his effort to liberate Jerusalem from Roman occupation. Additionally every author in our Bible was themselves of Jewish faith. To fully understand what it means to pray for a Savior and for “thy kin(g)dom come,” we must not forget our history. Not only that, we must actively participate in confronting uses of Christian theology to oppress and persecute our neighbors today

This service embraces the struggle of Jesus' last night.
We return to the fold through confession and grace.
We gather at the Table to remember the story.
After the meal, a shadow falls. We will leave in silence.

Holy Communion

Prelude

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross,” arr. Mason

Called to Worship

John 13:12-16

One: After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus returned to the table.

**All: We worship this night in search of the one
who broke the bread and lifted the cup,
the one who washed our feet, and not just our feet.**

Two: Jesus asked them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

**All: We come to worship unable to answer his questions fully;
yet we are eager to listen, to open heart, soul, and mind.**

One: “You call me Teacher and Lord.

If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another's feet.

**All: We worship to calm our anxiety, to sate our hunger;
and we are ready to serve, to care for alien, orphan, and widow.**

Two: “I have set you an example: you should do as I have done to you.
Servants are not greater than their master,
nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

**All: We worship in humble adoration, to bend our spirits low;
and we are ready to take up our part in this passion story:
of suffering and sacrifice, of love and redemption.**

Called to Turn

Luke 22:24-35

One: When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table.
His friends and followers were there with him. Jesus announced:
“The one who betrays me is with me now, with a hand on the table.”

All: “Who is it, Lord? Am I the one who has betrayed you?”

Two: Jesus said to them: “I am going as it has been determined,
but woe to that one who has betrayed me!”

One: A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them
was to be regarded as the greatest.

All: “Who is it, Lord? Am I the one you love most?”

Two: Jesus said to them, “The greatest among you must become like the youngest,
and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the
table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among
you as one who serves.”

One: Jesus said to one of them, “The cock will not crow this day,
until you have denied three times that you know me.”

All: “Who is it, Lord? Am I the one who will deny you?”

Two: Jesus said to them, “I have prayed for you that your own faith
may not fail; and that you, when once you have turned back,
will strengthen your kin.”

Called to Grace

One: Even though you have denied your faith,
even though you have betrayed your kin,
you are chosen, you are loved, and you are a delight to God.

Two: Your sin is forgiven;
though you were once lost, you have been found again.
You are seen; you are known; you are loved.

**All: We hear this good news, yet struggle to believe it.
We read the words of your grace, yet hesitate to live into them.
We take comfort in your compassion,
and ask only for the courage to follow you out of the desert.**

Called to the Table

Luke 22:14-23

One: Jesus reassured them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this meal with you."

Two: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

**All: "Take this and divide it among yourselves;
for I tell you that from now on I will not drink
of the fruit of the vine until the glory of God comes."**

One: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

**All: "This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

Two: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying:

**All: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

One: Tonight we recommit ourselves to fulfilling Jesus' commandment:
to love one another and to serve one another.

Two: The hour has come again. Jesus desires to eat with you again.
Come to the table and be fed.

This evening, communion will be brought to you.

Gluten-free bread has been prepared for you in an individual paper container.

The cup tonight is grape juice. When you have received the bread,
please wait until all have received so that we may all partake together.

Stay with me; re - main here with me; watch and
pray. Watch and pray.

The musical score consists of four staves. The first two staves are vocal lines (treble and bass clefs) with lyrics underneath. The last two staves are piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Stay with me; re - main here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray."

Called to Gratitude

One: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

All: Because it was broken, God met us in the bread.

Because it was poured out, Christ met us in the cup.

Because we participated together, the Holy Spirit met us here.

One: Give thanks to the One who has prepared this meal for you.

Give thanks to the many who claimed the mantle of ministry.

All: We give God thanks and praise,

because it is right to do so.

We give God thanks and praise,

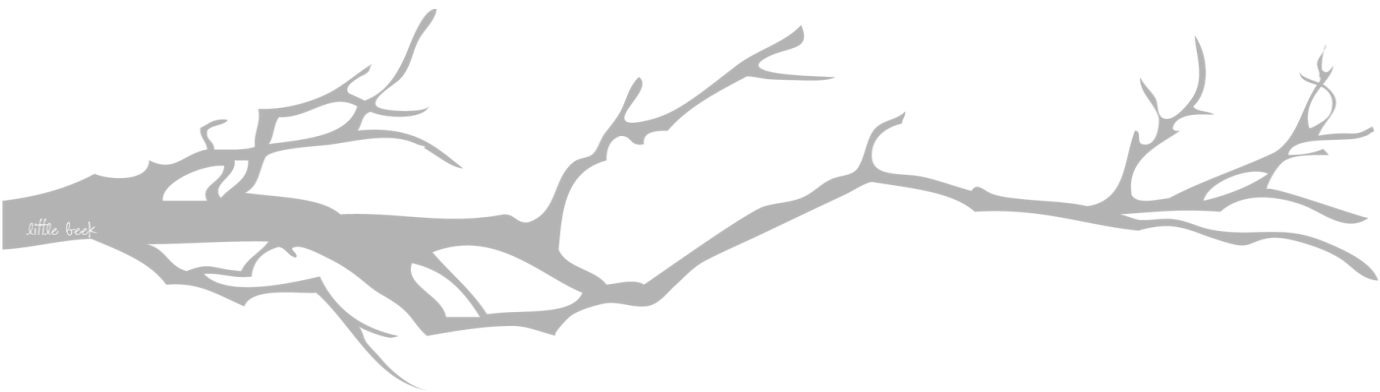
because it is a good and joyful thing.

We give thanks and praise to God, to Christ, and to the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Choir Anthem

“There is a Balm in Gilead,” arr. by Boesiger & McDonald



Tenebrae means *darkness*. As the light of each candle snuffed out,
we acknowledge the persistent shadow overhead.

Our faith is strengthened in this ritual which reminds us: all is not yet as God intends.

Tenebrae

First Reading

Luke 22:1-21
Judas betrays Jesus

Second Reading

Luke 22:39-46
Jesus is arrested

Sung Response

My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
What has my Sov - ereign done? What makes this rage and spite?

Love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
Christ gave new strength to run, re - stored the gift of sight.

O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
'gainst Christ rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst Christ rise.

Third Reading

Luke 22:54-62
Peter denies Jesus

Fourth Reading

Mark 15:1-15
Pilate questions Jesus

Sung Response

Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed, that mor - tal
Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you? It is my

judg - ment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, that has slain you. And I, dear Je - sus,

by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.

Fifth Reading

Matthew 27:27-31
Soldiers humiliate Jesus

Sixth Reading

Luke 23:33-46
Jesus is crucified

Sung Response

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see

the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;

And from my griev - ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—

the won - ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.

Seventh Reading

Matthew 27:45-51

Jesus dies

Eighth Reading

John 19:38-42

Joseph buries Jesus

Called to Silence

“Suite no. 1 in G major, BWV 1007,” by J.S. Bach

Caroline Reiner-Williams, cello

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.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Called to Grief

When the light returns,
please leave the Sanctuary in silence.

Easter Morning

April 17, 2022



Sunrise Service
6:00 a.m. at Lake Cochituate

Rise with the first light of the day, to celebrate the empty tomb.

Flowering the Cross
9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

In front of the Sanctuary, for all to see, we practice resurrection, one flower at a time.

Sanctuary Service
10:00 a.m.

*Worship begins for children of all ages outside in song and praise.
Then, following the cross, we move inside to sing and pray.*

Easter Egg Hunt & Coffee Hour
after worship

