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ThePeoplesChurch.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP | MARCH 28, 2024

Notes on tonight's service:

On Maundy Thursday, Christians commemorate the meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, where he washed the disciples' feet and instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. During this service, we will join together in the Lord's Supper and a ritual of foot washing.

While churches frequently celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, odds are many people in attendance tonight have never taken part in a foot washing ritual. While foot washing isn't as common of a practice in many mainline traditions, it is a nonetheless moving ritual to perform during Holy Week.

Tonight, there will be a foot washing station on the right side of the sanctuary and a hand washing station on the left side. After receiving a hand or foot washing, each person will wash and dry the feet of the next person, and so on, until all people who wish to take part in the ritual have an opportunity to participate.

In addition to the foot washing ritual, tonight's service will also include the ceremonial stripping of the altar, in which all the vestments will be removed from the front of the sanctuary. The ancient practice of stripping the Lord's table is a dramatic way to demonstrate the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane.

Thank you for joining us.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Haley Hansen

Prelude

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

arr. Dale Wood

Judy Kabodian, Organist

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

One Come, you with dirty feet, aching backs, and weary souls.

All We come bearing worry, frustration, and isolation.

One Come, you who are hungry, thirsty, longing to meet the one who will feed you, body and soul.

All We come with emptiness in our stomachs and our hearts, desperate to be filled.

One Come to meet Jesus who kneels to wash our dirt and grime, who feeds us bread and with love that never ends.

All We come to receive the balm for our anxiety, the provision for our hunger, the antidote for our loneliness.

One Come to receive a new commandment: love one another as Christ has loved you.

All We come to embrace this new commandment so that everyone will know we are disciples of Jesus Christ, God Incarnate who came to live and love among us.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have failed to be your disciples. We have not served as Jesus served. We have refused to love one another as Jesus loves. We have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then deny him by our actions. Forgive us, O God, and empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

no. 525

Let us break bread together on our knees (on our knees); let us break bread together on our knees (on our knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Let us drink wine together on our knees (on our knees); let us drink wine together on our knees (on our knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Let us praise God together on our knees (on our knees); let us praise God together on our knees (on our knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Let Us Break Bread Together
Text: African American Spiritual
Music: African American Spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen (1988)
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Service of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Sermon

“The New Commandment”

Rev. Haley Hansen

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored: **Refrain.**

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: **Refrain.**

We will work with each other; we will work side by side; we will work with each other; we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

Refrain.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: **Refrain.**

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We Are One in the Spirit
Text & Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966
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Ritual Footwashing

Stripping of the Altar

Please depart in silence.