



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

A Service for Maundy Thursday with Christ UMC

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan and Rev. Angela Wells

April 6, 2023 7:00 p.m.

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED SERVICE

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS SERVICE

This service has three main parts:

- **A Service of *Mandatum Novum* (New Commandment)**
to remember the new commandment Jesus gave the disciples, as he washed their feet;
- **A Service of Holy Communion**
in which we are invited to participate as one of “The Twelve” at the Last Supper;
- **A Service of Shadows: Tenebrae**
in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light.

Introit

Jesus, Remember Me

SJU Chancel Choir

Jesus, remember me
When you come into your kingdom
Jesus, remember me
When you come into your kingdom

WORDS OF WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

We join a solemn journey of three days that has changed the world and our own lives. Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey since his first followers took it, long ago.

(pause)

This is the night of love.

(pause)

On this night Jesus took a towel and basin, and washed his disciples' feet. On this night he told them to do the same for others to show their love for him and for one another.

This is the night of love, for everyone born.

(pause)

On this night, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his followers for the last time, and invited them to remember him, to encounter him anew, whenever they did the same.

This is the night of love, for everyone born, who have a place at the table.

(pause)

On this night, followers of Jesus have welcomed those who have returned to the way of Jesus after a time of wandering and a journey of returning.

This is the night of love, for everyone born who can be creators of justice, joy, compassion and peace.

(pause)

This is the night of love and so, on this night, we welcome the penitent – **all here have wandered** – and invite all who are seeking – **all here are still learning** – to join us in hearing and obeying the commandment of our Master and to feast at his table, **that we may love one another as he has loved us.**

Come, ye sinners. Come, ye thirsty. Come, ye weary.

Come to the night of love, for everyone born.

Hymn

For Everyone Born (v. 1)

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

OPENING PRAYER FOR THE LIGHT*

Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine the day and the moon and the stars to shine by night. Kindle in us the flame of your love that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.

***LIGHTING OF THE TABLE CANDLES**

Anthem

What Wondrous Love Is This

SJU Chancel Choir

(American folk hymn; arr. Benjamin Harlan)

What wondrous love is this, o my soul, o my soul

What wondrous love is this

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down

When I was sinking down, sinking down

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul

God laid aside his crown for my soul

READING THE MANDATUM NOVUM (New Commandment)
(The origin for the name Maundy Thursday)

LECTIO, REFLECTIO AND COLLECTIO: Inviting All to Listen and Obey the Spirit

The pastor stands in the center of the gathered people and reads the gospel three times, with pauses between each reading for reflection. After the first reading, the pastor invites people to notice what stood out for them, and perhaps jot down a word or two to remember it. For the second reading, the pastor invites all to listen more intently around those words or themes to hear more clearly what the Spirit is speaking or showing. For the third reading, the pastor invites all to listen and decide one action each will take to obey the Spirit's promptings from the Word. After a suitable time of silence, all who wish are invited to share briefly what they noticed, what the Spirit showed them, and one thing they intend to do to follow the Spirit's direction. This is a time of sharing and listening only, not conversation.

READINGS John 13:1-7; 12-16; 31b – 35

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT: Washing One Another's Hands

This is the night of love. Jesus washed his disciples' feet, reversing roles of master and student servant and host, and told them to do the same to show the world God's love and theirs.

On this night, we will symbolically wash each other's hands, obeying Christ's command to love one another as he has loved us. Come. Let Christ love you here, and share that love with another.

Guests at each table cleans their own hands with sanitizer, and then turn to clean the hands of the one next to them with a sanitized towel. until all have been washed.

SONG DURING HANDWASHING

For Everyone Born (v. 2)

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER

This is the night of love. And you are seated at the table of love.

At this table, Christ, who loves us, is with us.

He is with us, and we are his. We belong to God.

And so we pray:

**We are yours, all yours, blessed Triune God,
all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise,
all our fears, all our grumbling, all our hesitations,
all our loves, all our joys, all our passions,
we give them all to you, with bodies, and minds and voices.
Yours, all yours!**

Yours the blessing, yours the praise, from the unimaginable silence before the big bang, beyond the farthest reaches of time and space we may ever find, from infinity to infinity, everlasting to everlasting, you are God, boundless in love and power.

What are we that you should notice us?

What are we that you should love us?

What are we that you should call us into covenant with you, a covenant we continually broke and you continuously sustained.

Mercy! How full of mercy!

How can we but praise you, joining our voices with the song of angels and saints, strangers and family in every generation:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your presence, Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Love.

Hosanna in the highest!

You preached good news that God's kingdom has drawn near and gathered disciples, then and now, to learn and show the world what life in God's reign means: healing for the sick, new life for the dead, cleansing for the lepers, sight for the blind, food for the hungry, freedom for the oppressed, love poured out for all.

On this night you took a towel and basin, washed your disciples' feet and taught them to do likewise.

It is the same night we betrayed you, when you took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to your disciples, when you told them,
"This is my body broken for you. Remember me."

We remember.

It is when you took the cup, praised God and shared it, and when you said,
"This is my blood of the new covenant for you. Remember me."

We remember.

We remember, and we praise you with our lives and these gifts of bread and wine, proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith:

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

Come upon us, Holy Spirit.

Come upon these gifts.

Make them be for us Christ's body, Christ's blood.

Make us one body in Christ enlivened in love by his blood.

One in heart, one in mind, one in you, Holy Spirit, as you move us to pray and act for the church and the world.

**All blessing, honor, glory and power be yours, Holy Triune God, now and forever.
Amen!**

The bread and cup are shared around the tables as we sing:

HYMN

For Everyone Born (v. 3)

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS: TENEBRAE

After each reading, one of the table candles will be extinguished. An usher should dim the lights bit by bit following each reading. At the end of the readings, the sanctuary will be completely dark, except for one remaining candle at the foot of the cross.

READINGS

Shadow of Betrayal
Shadow of Desertion

Matthew 26: 20-22, 25
Matthew 26: 31a, 33-35

HYMN

For Everyone Born (v. 4)

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
For pain that we hold, the real need to grieve,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

READINGS

Agony of the Soul
Unshared Vigil

Luke 22: 39-44
Mark 14: 32-41

MUSICAL INTERLUDE (INSTRUMENTAL)

For Everyone Born (v. 5)

READINGS

Father/Mother, the Hour Has Come
That They May Be All One

John 17: 1-4, 6
John 17: 15-18

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Stay Here
SJU Chancel Choir

Stay here and keep watch with me
The hour has come
Stay here and keep watch with me
Watch and pray

READINGS

Arrest in the Garden
Shadow of the Cross

John 18: 1-5
Mark 15: 16-20

HYMN

For Everyone Born (v. 6)

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

(All light is extinguished for a time in darkness and silence)

THE PROMISE

John 1: 1-5

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Please depart in silence.

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
United In Love – United for Service

MARY KA KANAHAH – PASTOR
Yvonne B. Barner – Administrator
Ingrid A. Sampson – Music Director
Patricia Hammer – Accompanist

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

PastorKanahanSJU@gmail.com

cell: 410-428-8090

St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., Columbia MD 21044
SJUColumbia@gmail.com • 410-730-9137 • www.sjunited.org
Facebook: [SJUFacebook](#) • YouTube: [SJU YouTube](#)

