



Maundy Thursday

A Table. A Basin. Some Food. Some Friends.

April 9, 2020 + 7 PM

On **Maundy Thursday**, named for the command or “mandate” Jesus gave the disciples to love one another, we gather to remember Jesus’ example of servanthood and to celebrate the last supper Jesus shared with his friends. The worship service concludes with the ancient practice of stripping the altar table as a dramatic demonstration of Jesus’ abandonment during the events of this night and Good Friday. Our gathering this evening begins a three-day continuous worship service (Triduum), including Good Friday and concluding on the evening of Holy Saturday.

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Join us in worship, Sunday mornings at 11 AM, on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA). Or, watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at www.umcb.org/sermons.

We Gather as God’s Children

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God’s presence.

Hymns

The Servant Song

TFWS 2222

***Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.***

***We are pilgrims on a journey; we’re together on this road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.***

***I will hold the Christ light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.***

***I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.***

***When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.***

***Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.***

*The Servant Song / Richard Gillard / 1977 Universal Music—Brentwood Benson Publishing
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Make Me a Servant

TFWS 2176

***Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.***

*Make Me a Servant / Kelly Willard / 1982 CCM Music, Universal Music—Brentwood Benson Publishing
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Words of Welcome

Call to Worship (adapted from 1 Corinthians 13)

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Friends, let us be servants of one another.

Let us break bread and share in this gift of love.

God's love has called us here.

Love is patient, kind, not jealous, and does not brag.

Love is not arrogant, not rude, and does not seek its own advantage.

Love is not irritable, does not keep a record of complaints,
is not happy with injustice but is happy with the truth.

Love puts up with all things.

Love trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

We claim this love. Lord, help us to love others as you love all.

Prayer

***Loving Christ, on this night of remembrance, we remember your loving gift of life,
and we celebrate your presence among us.***

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may sense your presence and bathe in your grace.

***Send your Holy Spirit upon the sacred gifts of table, basin, food, and friends,
that they may become for us your living presence, full of mercy and grace.***

In your loving name, we remember and pray. Amen.

Hymn

The Gift of Love

UMH 408

***Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.***

***Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.***

***Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.***

The Gift of Love / Hal H. Hopson / 1972 Hope Publishing Company / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Reading—John 13.1-7, 12-16, 34-35 (CEB)

¹ Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

² Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. ⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later."

¹² ...After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. ¹⁴ If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. ¹⁶ I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them....

³⁴ "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. ³⁵ This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

Jesu, Jesu (vv. 1-3, 5)

UMH 432

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white, neighbors are near and far away.*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live with you.
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Jesu Jesu / Tom Colvin / 1989 Hope Publishing Company / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Second Reading—Matthew 26.17-19 (CEB)

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?"

¹⁸ He replied, "Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, 'The teacher says, "My time is near. I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹ The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

A Feast of Love

Whenever we "break bread" together as church, we remember that Jesus invited folks to gather for meals throughout his ministry, not just as part of the "last supper." So, during this season of "social distancing," we wanted to create a way for all of us to break bread together on this holy evening, using whatever we have already in our homes. You are invited to have some food or beverage with you now as we continue.

Jesus used the parable of a great banquet to which all people are invited as a way to talk about God's dream for this world. He told us to "go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled" (Luke 14.23). Often, he invited the least likely guests to his meals, confounding the disciples and others. In this way, he encouraged a deep love and connection beyond our social "norms." He knew that we need connection and inclusion, at once comforting us, saying, "You have a place at the table," and challenging us to make sure that we are doing the same for others: extending our tables, our hearts, our communities, so that all are welcomed and affirmed.

It is difficult in this moment not to be near some of those whom we love and about whom we might be concerned. Take a moment now to pause and say out loud the names of people you wish were right there next to you at your table today....

Jesus is no longer physically with us when we gather, and yet, every time we gather around a table or gather in worship, Christ is present with us. So, too, our loved ones are with us now.

One Bread, One Body

UMH 620

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.***

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.***

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.***

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.***

One Bread One Body / John B. Foley / 1989 North American Liturgy Resources / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

In the spirit of Christ, we also call to mind people we cannot name, whose names we do not know, but we know they, too, need our prayers and God's comfort.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones to distance, disagreement, or death....

We pray for those who are sick or recovering....

We pray for those who are caring for loved ones sick at home....

We pray for those who offer medical care and expertise....

We pray for those who keep our basic supply-chain moving....

We pray for those who are separated from loved ones...

and for those who are feeling alone or isolated....

We pray for those who are afraid....

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." ²⁷ He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you.

²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. ²⁹ I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom."

(Matthew 26.26-29 (CEB))

Be Present at Our Table, Lord

UMH 621

***Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored;
thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee.***

Be Present at Our Table Lord / John Cennick / Public Domain

Blessings at the table are part of our spiritual heritage. Indeed, Jesus adapted his Jewish ritual blessing, asking us to remember him whenever we break bread or raise a cup in thanksgiving. Take a moment now to pause and say out loud a couple of blessings for which you are feeling grateful....

Doxology

UMH 95

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Praise God / Thomas Ken / Public Domain

As we eat and drink and share food with others, may we imagine God's extravagant love binding us together as we reach across "social distance" to loved ones, to friends, to neighbors, and even to strangers. As we stay at home, may we also stay at peace, with the peace and comfort of Christ present with us now and forevermore.

Thanks be to God.

Third Reading—Matthew 26.30-34 (CEB)

After singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

³¹ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, *I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions.* ³² But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you to Galilee."

³³ Peter replied, "If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble."

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times."

Hymn

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

TFWS 2112

***Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.
We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.
You must go and stand your trial; you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; you have to stand it by yourself.***

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***Our worship continues tomorrow,
on Good Friday, broadcast live at 7 PM,
Online at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA.***

***Bulletins to guide your participation
may be found at
www.umcb.org/sermons.***

Continue worshipping with us throughout Holy Week
using the connection information above.



Saturday
April 11 at 7 PM



Sunday
April 12 at 11 AM