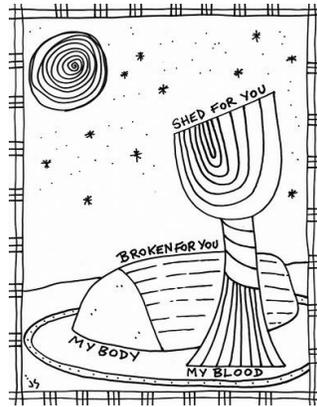


**Maundy Thursday Worship – April 1, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church**



In the growing darkness we gather. Our Lenten journey has brought us here. Jesus, our Teacher and Lord, sets before us a towel, a bowl, bread, a cup. He gives us an example and a commandment ever new: to love one another as he has loved us. This is how everyone will know we are his disciples, when we love each other.

Opening Music

"Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639"
Mary Maldarelli, organ

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Setting the Story

Matthew 26:3–5

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'

Matthew 26:6–13

⁶Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, 'Why this waste? ⁹For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.' ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

Matthew 26:14–16

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, ‘What will you give me if I betray him to you?’ They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Welcome to you who call upon the name of Christ.

We gather tonight to recall the story of the night Jesus was betrayed.

Are you prepared to come to the feast of Jesus, the Christ,
whose life was poured out for you?

By the grace of God, we are.

Are you able to watch with Jesus
at prayer in the garden –
indeed, to struggle yourselves to be in unity
with God's will for you?

By the grace of God, we are.

Then let us praise God, even in this hour of darkness!

**God of all grace and steadfast love,
greatly is your name to be praised in all the earth.**

**Bring us to this feast of remembrance
with open hearts!**

Invitation to Confession and Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Holy God, you call us to serve others
as Christ has served us.

**We confess that we have not followed Christ's example
as fully or as often as we should.**

We turn away from people in need.

**True humility eludes us,
and we hide our own vulnerability.**

**You command us to love one another
as you have loved us.**

We confess that we do not love so generously.

**Gathered on this Holy Thursday,
we confess that we are capable of denying
and betraying you and one another,
no less than the first disciples.**

**Forgive us, merciful God,
and cleanse us of all our sin;
then guide our feet to walk with you always.**

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Declaration of Forgiveness

Music for Reflection

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

Our Story Continues

Matthew 26:17–19

¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?’ ¹⁸He said, ‘Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, “The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.” ’ ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

Matthew 26:20–25

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.’ ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, ‘Surely not I, Lord?’ ²³He answered, ‘The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.’ ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, ‘Surely not I, Rabbi?’ He replied, ‘You have said so.’

Matthew 26:26–29

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom

Music for Reflection

“I Stand Amazed”

Text by C.H. Gabriel. Music by Wade Meyers.

Invitation to the Communion Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving [*responsive*]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

Lord’s Prayer [*together*]

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;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is present to us in this meal, and that presence comes through whatever elements we use. Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.

Prayer after Communion

Closing Blessing

Closing Music "O Mensch, bewein dein Sunde gross, BWV 622" J.S. Bach
Mary Maldarelli, organ.

Let us depart into the shadows of the night.
Our worship continues tomorrow with the Good Friday service.
Link to the service in tomorrow's email.

Or, join on Zoom with these sign-ins:
Meeting ID: 816 4046 3482; Passcode: GoodFriday

Join by phone: Call 301-715-8592 US (Washington DC)
Meeting ID: 816 4046 3482; Passcode: 4180205372