

MAUNDY THURSDAY



CRIDUM

Thursday, April 9, 2020
7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

The liturgy for the Three Days proclaims one dramatic story in three acts. The events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day are best understood as one service, unfolding over the course of three days. Through this profound and transforming experience at the heart of the Christian year, we are immersed in the holy mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and the great story of God's saving love.

Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, Latin for commandment) proclaims Jesus' new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It celebrates Christ's example of humble service and self-offering, represented by the washing of feet (in some places) and the sharing of communion. The liturgy begins with an emphasis on confession and forgiveness, concluding the penitential season of Lent. (*Reprinted by permission from the Book of Common Worship, ©2018 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.*)

Ash Wednesday began with an extended confession of sin. Tonight's absolution and sharing of the peace thus conclude the time of repentance, and the last three days of Lent—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—are spent in the most intense meditation upon the mystery of redemption.



A LITURGY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 2020

7:30 p.m.

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Leader: We are gathered in the presence of God, who asks us to choose between life and death, between blessing and curse.

People: We are gathered like the people of Israel, who were challenged to choose the way of life.

L: Like them, we often follow the ways of death.

P: Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day to begin anew by the grace of God.

L: By our presence here, we are saying that we choose life.

All: Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place. Amen.

OPENING SONG:

Jesus, Remember Me

Jacques Berthier



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

INVOCATION

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Corzine

L: God calls us in our lives to be like the grain of wheat which dies, which lets go of one form in order to be transformed into new, and fuller life. And yet we often fear the risk and change which new growth involves. Let us ponder for a moment the places where we may be resisting God moving in our lives.

A brief period of silence follows

L: When we resist your call to change our hearts and allow a deepening of relationship:

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: When we nurse our wounded hearts and withhold forgiveness which may transform relationship:

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: When fear for our own security leads us to close our hearts from those who are in need:

P: Lord, have mercy.

All: The One who makes a covenant on our hearts is faithful, and forgives us our sins and failures. In Christ, God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks, for the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of Christ be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Exodus 12:1–14

Rev. Corzine

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Rev. Corzine

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

John 13:1–15

Rev. Ahrens

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Rev. Ahrens

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God’s invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God’s community in the church and the world.

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who we hold in our hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)

L: God of deliverance and freedom, you taught the people of Israel to acknowledge that all things come from your bountiful hand. Deepen our faith so that we may resist temptation and, in the midst of trial, proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, now and for ever.

P: Amen.

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

Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ahrens

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

p *f*

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

mf

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Corzine

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

African-American spiritual



1. Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; _____ let us break bread to-
2. Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees; _____ let us drink wine to-



geth-er on our knees; _____ when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing
geth-er on our knees; _____



sun, O___ Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____ me. _____



3. Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees; _____ let us praise God to-



geth-er on our knees; _____ when I fall on my knees, with my



face to the ris-ing sun, O___ Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____



LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min, *Senior Minister*
The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div., *Associate Minister*
Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.E., *Minister of Music*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Good Friday, April 10

7:30 p.m. – Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday (YouTube and Facebook)
featuring *St. John Passion* by Tomàs Luis de Victoria

Easter Day, April 12

11 a.m. – Resurrection Celebration (YouTube and Facebook)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

