



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT SEVEN
APRIL 17, 2025
MAUNDY THURSDAY

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.

VOLUNTARY

Le banquet céleste

Olivier Messiaen, 1928

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Please stand as you are able. (indicates congregation standing)*

*Leader: We are gathered to recall the night when Jesus was betrayed. Are you ready to come to the feet of Christ, whose Life was poured out for you?

People: By the grace of God, we are.

Leader: Can you watch while Jesus prays in the garden?

People: By the grace of God, we can.

Leader: Will you follow Jesus, even into the night of betrayal?

People: By the grace of God, we will.

Leader: Then let us praise God, even in the hours of darkness.

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

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

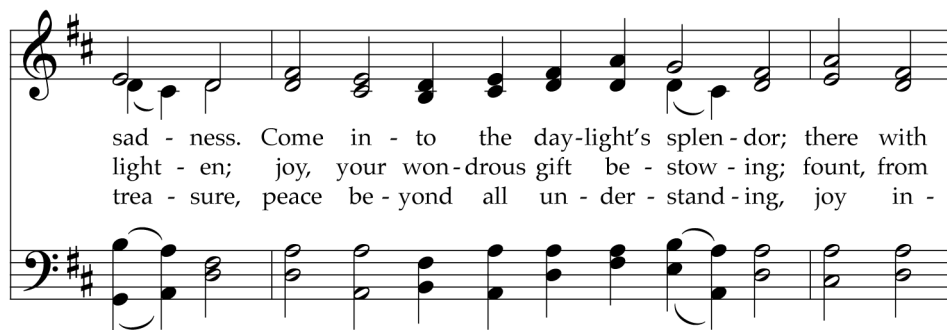
“Deck yourself, my soul, with gladness”

Schmücke dich, Johann Crüger, 1649

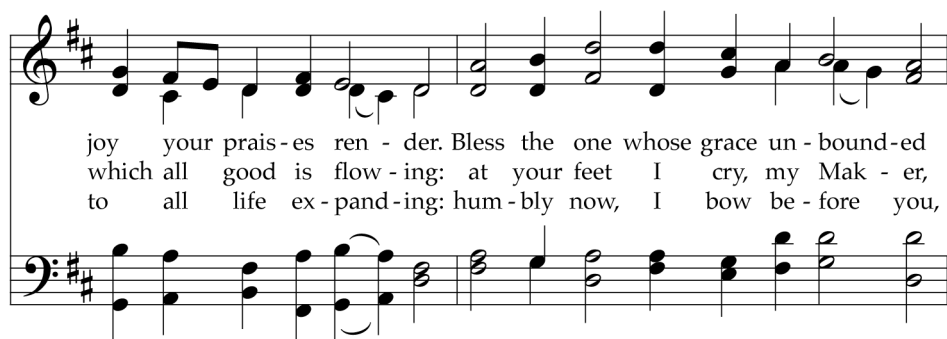
Johann Franck, c. 1649; tr. Composite



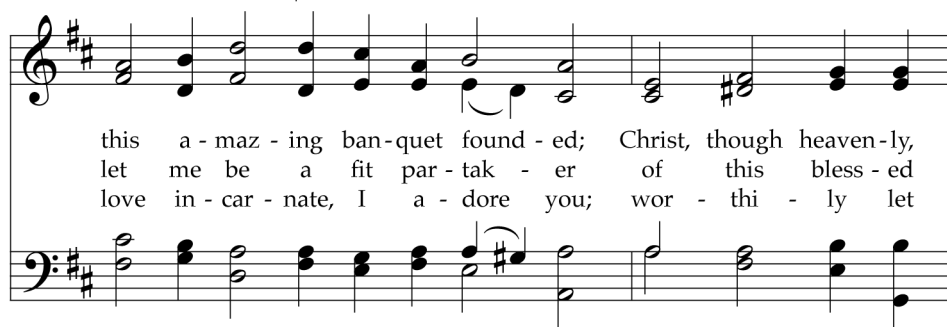
1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad - ness; leave the gloom-y haunts of
 2 Sun, who all my life does bright-en; light, who does my soul en-
 3 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea - sure, tru - est friend and dear-est



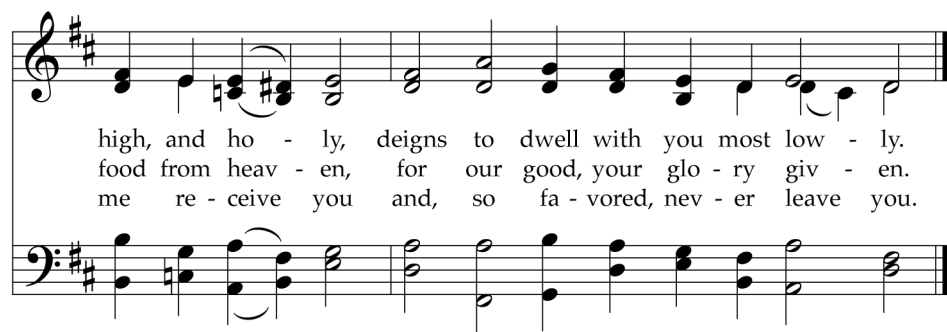
sad - ness. Come in - to the day-light's splen - dor; there with
 light - en; joy, your won-drous gift be - stow - ing; fount, from
 trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in -



joy your prais-es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed
 which all good is flow - ing; at your feet I cry, my Mak - er,
 to all life ex - pand - ing; hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you,



this a - maz - ing ban-quet found - ed; Christ, though heaven-ly,
 let me be a fit par - tak - er of this bless - ed
 love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 food from heav - en, for our good, your glo - ry giv - en.
 me re - ceive you and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

*INVOCATION

Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: We have gathered, O God, in answer to your mandate that we love one another as you have loved us in Jesus of Nazareth. We gather as disciples awaiting a word of assurance and promise. We seek protection from all who insist on conformity to their narrow points of view. We seek empowerment at the table of remembrance and celebration.

People: We long to love as we have been loved,
to serve as Christ has served among us,
to live lives of thanksgiving that fulfill our vows to you and to one another.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*KYRIE ELEISON

William Mathias, 1976

Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

William Mathias, 1976

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -

might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,

on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seated at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Following the Gloria, the organs are silenced until Easter Day.

***WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Becky David

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Rev. Livingston

Leader: A reading from the book of Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

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.

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.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Choir introduces the Antiphon, after which the People join in singing the Antiphon, repeating as indicated after the Choir chants the verses.



How shall I repay the Lord
for all the good things he has done for me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

Refrain.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his servants.

Refrain.

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

Refrain.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Refrain.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Rev. Livingston

Leader: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, the eleventh chapter.

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.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
Ubi Caritas

Maurice Duruflé, 1960
Maundy Thursday Hymn, North Italian or Burgundian, ca. 8th c.

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love abide, there is God.
The love of Christ hath joined us into one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in him.
Let us fear and let us love the living God.
And let us love each other in sincerity of heart.

*GOSPEL

Luke 22:14-23

Rev. David

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Love bade me welcome"

David Hurd, 1993
George Herbert, "The Temple," 1633

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sinne.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd any thing.
A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkinde, ungratefull? Ah my deare,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame?
My deare, then I will serve.
You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. David and Rev. Samuelson

Leader: On their own, the bread and wine are nothing.
To become a foretaste and a promise
of love made real and a world made whole,
they need a story and a blessing
and a people who believe...

**People: It would not have been God's table
if they hadn't all been gathered around it:
the betrayer and the friend
the power-hungry and the justice seeker
the faithful and the fickle.**

Leader: When Jesus poured the wine, and the bread was broken;
when everyone could eat -
the outcast and the beloved
the arrogant and the gracious
the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by -
the table became a foretaste of love made real
and of a world made whole.

Your company at the table
will include the betrayer and the beloved
the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by.
It would not be God's table without them.

**People: And the promise is
that when we are together,
when we tell the story and give the blessing
when we break the bread and pour the wine
we will discover a foretaste
of love made real
and of a world made whole.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for love and justice,
Jesus sat down at the table with those that had become his family.
At that table were those who adored him and those that would betray him.
He knew this. And he gave bread to all anyway.
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
invited all to drink from this cup of love, this cup of suffering—
the sign of the covenant of relationship.

“Whenever you gather as a community around tables,
whenever you strive to overcome the adversity of being human together,
whenever you need to remember I am always with you, do this.”

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

from Jan L. Richardson

Leader: Let us bless the bread

People: that gives itself to us with its terrible weight, its infinite grace.

Leader: Let us bless the cup

People: poured out for us with a love that drenches, that makes us anew.

Leader: Let us gather around these gifts simply given and deeply blessed.

**People: And then let us go bearing the bread, carrying the cup,
laying the table within a hungry world.**

Leader: All is ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“Jesus, remember me”

Rev. Samuelson

Remember Me, Jacques Berthier, 1981



Remembering that in the past God has always been active in seeking the salvation of his people, let us bring to him now our prayers for ourselves and for others.

Lord we thank you for the fellowship we share with your people throughout the world as we remember the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples. Let your church follow his example of love and service so that his message of salvation might reach those around us. *Refrain.*

Lord we pray for all those who today, like your people in Egypt long ago, are oppressed and treated unjustly by those in power who abuse their authority. We pray that arrogance and cruelty may give way to humility and a kindness that seeks not to crush but to serve and nurture the weak and vulnerable. *Refrain.*

Lord we pray for our families and friends and for the communities in which we live and work. We thank you for the celebrations and festivals which we share together. Help us also to look outwards and to care for those who are on the fringes of our society and excluded from our communities. *Refrain.*

Lord we pray for all who are suffering today and carrying the burdens of sickness, grief, anxiety or guilt. We pray that you will guide them towards freedom, wholeness and faith in you as a loving God who seeks to serve us and save us if only we will let you. *Refrain.*

Heavenly Father, you have always been active in seeking the salvation of your people. Hear our prayers today and use them and us in your saving work both in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we pray in the name of your Son, our Servant and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Refrain.*

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The stripping of the altar, which involves removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments, is a symbolic act that mirrors Christ's own experience of being stripped of his garments and subjected to suffering and death. This final act of the Maundy Thursday service prepares us to move more deeply into the Passion of Christ on Good Friday.

All depart in silence.

You are invited to walk the labyrinth in the Parish Hall as part of your contemplative experience of Holy Week. Walking the labyrinth puts one in touch with a ritual form that is thousands of years old and is often seen as a metaphor for our spiritual journey. This walking meditation presents an opportunity for you to discover the Divine as you experience the transformative energy within the twists and turns. Commissioned Minister of Spiritual Formation Jacquelyn Dean will be there to guide you in this experience.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, *liturgist*
Stefan Duga, *crucifer*
Gregory Duncan and Jason Harrell, *vergers*
The First Church Choir
Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*

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“Jesus, remember me” Words: Taizé Community, 1981. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1981. © Words and Music 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div.
Designated Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.
Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.
Interim Director of Faith Formation: Leslie Fulford
Administrative Manager: Amy Wagner
Communications Manager: Melissa Kulwicki
Office Assistant: Pat Patterson
Business Administrator: Annette McCormick
Maintenance: Mike Sharrock
Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe, Bob O'Brien
Handbell Director: Jennifer Fry
Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Denise Vogt
Nursery Staff: Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice: Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Jacquelyn Dean
Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Program Coordinator: Gary Glover
Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator: Wendy Kennedy
Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator: Susie Loik
Senior Deacon: Martha Worth
Deacons: Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Frank Cook
Trustees: Matthew Bendick, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Sarah Reed, Judy Smith, (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Sarah Reed
Moderator-elect:
Treasurer: Ramona Moenter
Treasurer-elect:
Secretary: Amanda Butler
Secretary-elect:
Nominating Chair: Gregory Halbe

COMMISSIONERS

Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Stephen Sterrett
Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect: Kathy Reed
Church Vitality: Pat Patterson
Church Vitality-elect: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen
Communications and Technology Commission: Mike Kennedy
Communications and Technology Commission-elect:
Faith Formation Commission: Cami Curren
Faith Formation Commission-elect: Mariner Taft
House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth
House & Grounds-elect:
Justice & Mercy: James Lowe
Justice & Mercy-elect: Janice Taft
Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson
Member-at-Large: Martha Wilson
Personnel: Sandra Mathias
Personnel-elect:
Youth Member-at-Large: Sebastian Kulwicki

FIRST CHURCH IS A FAITH COMMUNITY

- † Called together by God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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