

The CHURCH *of the* COVENANT

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28, 2024, 7:30 PM



Last Supper
Romolo Tavani

*“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”
~ John 13:34*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**All who are able are invited to stand.*

An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use please switch your hearing aid to 'T'



THE MCGAFFIN CARILLON

George Leggiero, *Covenant Carillonneur*

PRELUDE

Choral No. 1 in E Major

CÉSAR FRANCK
Jonathan Moyer, organ

* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jessie MacMillan

We gather tonight to tell the old, old story,
a story of bitterness and betrayal, of despair, denial and death.

We gather tonight to tell an even older story prepared before the world began:
**a story of love powerful enough
to rewrite our endings with the promise of new life.**

In the telling of the story, in the breaking of the bread, in the coming of the night,
we draw near once more to Christ.

* HYMN 514

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

SCHMÜCKE DICH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Katherine Chilcote

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

For every time you asked us to stay with you, and we wandered away, forgive us.

For every time we fell asleep on the job of being your disciples, forgive us.

**For every time we boasted of our loyalty, yet crept away, betrayed,
or denied you, forgive us.**

For every time we hear this story, and think “we would do better,” forgive us.

For every time we meet your faithfulness, with faithlessness, forgive us.

**God, your love for us is unfathomably deep, that you would take all our failures,
and still love us as friends. May we take the gift of your forgiveness,
and share it with the world, that you made and loved so much. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

KYRIE

MERBECKE

All are invited to sing.



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, the story we tell tonight is a story of the deepest love;
love that would offer forgiveness even to the traitor at its right hand.

The bread was for us; the cup, for us; the cross, for us; we are forgiven, not easily,
but the hard way. We are forgiven, not cheaply, but wholly.

We are forgiven, and we are freed. Praise be to God. Amen

**Son of God, whose heart is peace,
Son of God, most holy,
to your presence we have come;
give us now your love.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Katherine Chilcote

FIRST LESSON

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

Katherine Chilcote

SECOND LESSON

JOHN 13:1-17, 31b-35

Rev. Jessie MacMillan

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Jessie MacMillan

OFFERTORY

Improvisation on "Chereponi"

Jonathan Moyer, organ

* HYMN 203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEREPONI

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Revs. Jessie MacMillan
and Robin Craig

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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...**

SANCTUS

MERBECKE

All are invited to sing.



Ho - ly. Ho - ly. Ho - ly. Lord God of hosts. Heav'n and earth are



full of Thy glo - ry: Glo - ry be to Thee. O Lord Most High. A - men

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please hold the elements so we may partake together.

COMMUNION MOTET

Ubi Caritas

OLA GJEILO
Chancel Choir

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.

The love of Christ has gathered us together.

Exsultemus et in ipso junundemur.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.

Let us revere and love the living God.

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

And from a sincere heart let us love one another. Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* HYMN 221

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORAL

THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

LESSON I

Matthew 26:20–25

PATTY FOWLER

LESSON II

Matthew 26:31, 33–35

JIM TOMASZEWSKI

ANTHEM

O Sorrow Deep

DAVID HURD
Chancel Choir

O sorrow deep! Who would not weep with heartfelt pain and sighing!
God the Father's only Son in the tomb is lying.

The Paschal Lamb, like Isaac's ram, in blood was offered for us,
pouring out his life that he might to life restore us.

Blest shall they be eternally who ponder their weeping
that the glorious Prince of Life should in death be sleeping.

O Jesus blest, my help and rest, with tears I pray thee, hear me:
now and even unto death dearest Lord be near me.

LESSON III

Matthew 26:36–41

REV. ROBIN CRAIG

LESSON IV

Matthew 26:42–45

LUCY VERES

ANTHEM

Nolo Mortem Peccatoris

THOMAS MORLEY
Covenant Choir

Nolo mortis peccatoris, haec sunt verba Salvatoris.

"I wish not the death of a sinner." These are the words of the Savior.

Father, I am thine only Son, sent down from heaven mankind to save:

Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will I have:

Father, my will now all is this: *Nolo mortem peccatoris.*

Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on every side:

even from my birth to death most tart, no kind of pain I have denied,

but suffered all, and all for this. *Nolo mortem peccatoris.*

LESSON V

Matthew 26:47–50

HARRIET WADSWORTH

LESSON VI

Matthew 26:51–52, 55–56; Luke 22:52

DENI HORSTMAN

ANTHEM

O Vos Omnes

CAROL GESUALDO DA VENOSA
Covenant Choir

O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam, attendite et videte si est dolor sicut dolor meus.

O all you people, who pass on the way, behold and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow.

LESSON VII

Luke 22:54–62

CHRIS LANGMACK

LESSON VIII

Mark 15:16–27

RON NEILL

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Were You There

SPIRITUAL

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

The Chancel Choir

Michael Peters, bass

Rachel Rose, soprano

Connor Vrooman, tenor

A rumble from the organ symbolizes the closing of the tomb.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

*As the lighting in the sanctuary returns,
the congregation is asked to leave the sanctuary in silence
in preparation for Good Friday and the joy of Easter.*



ABOUT OUR SERVICE

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE as communion servers are Harriet Wadsworth, Chris Langmack, Ron Neill, and Deni Horstman. Patty Fowler served as Maundy Thursday Coordinator. Thank you to all of our church staff for their assistance.

USHERS THIS EVENING are Nancy Matz and Fred Mailey.

THE ANCIENT SERVICE OF TENEBRAE, which dates from the 8th century, commemorates the suffering and death of Christ. It is a dramatic retelling of the Passion story that impresses one with the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of Jesus's sacrifice. It concludes with the Great Bourdon Bell tolling once for each year of Christ's life. *Tenebrae* is a Latin word meaning darkness. The triangular candle stand is called the hearse. The name is derived, through the French *herse*, from the Latin *herpex*, which means a harrow (consisting of many spikes). The symbolism, which dates back at least as far as the seventh century, varies. The triangle itself is said to be a symbol of the trinity, with the uppermost candle representing Christ, the light of the world, and with the gradual extinguishing of the other candles symbolizing the waning faith and desertion of his disciples.



Good Friday, March 29

Worship, 12:00 pm, Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31

Breakfast, 8:30 am, Dowd Commons

All are welcome!

Carillon Prelude, 9:30 am

Organ Prelude, 9:45 am

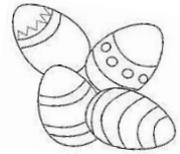
Worship, 10:00 am, Sanctuary

Come celebrate the risen Lord with music for organ and brass.

Rev. Jessie MacMillan is preaching.

Childcare available.

Easter egg hunt, following the service.



The Church of the Covenant will be closed Easter Monday, April 1.

Welcome!

We are thrilled that you have chosen to join us for worship. For more than one hundred years, we have sought to be a welcoming spiritual home, live God's inclusive love, express Christ's compassion, and do justice in the world. As a diverse community, we find unity in our shared identity as Jesus's disciples and in our desire to put God's love into action within and beyond these walls. Whether you are a student, here with a patient in the hospital, visiting from out of town, looking for a church home, or a decades-long member, may you experience God's transformative presence as we worship together!

Rev. Jessie MacMillan



HEARSE DESIGN: The creator of the hearse you see is Ken Roby of the Village Blacksmith in Chagrin Falls. He and Catherine C. Miller designed this hearse (triangle candle stand) to the exact measurements and candle placements as a rustic wooden hearse used since 1969. Fine Arts and Memorials funds made this possible. Mr. Roby is the metal smith who also crafted the All Saints Columbarium cross. The cross was designed by Mrs. Miller in memory of the Reverend Albert L. Jeandheur, during whose pastorate Covenant began to observe Maundy Thursday with this order of service.

MUSIC NOTES

The Prelude

The French organist and composer César Franck (1822-1890) composed his *Trois Chorals* in the final year of his life partly in homage to the great “Bach” tradition of organ playing, which had so profoundly influenced his own compositions and manner of performance. None of the *Chorals* are based on actual Lutheran melodies, yet they evoke the spirit of the chorale genre. The first of these in E major features a rhapsodic opening theme that acts as prelude to the actual *choral*, sounding on a distant registration using the *voix humaine* or “human voice.” The *choral* and its counterpart theme undergo a lengthy development that leads to final apotheosis on the full organ.

Maundy Thursday Music

Chancel Choir offers a musical celebration of communion with a contemporary setting of *Ubi caritas* by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. The text of this motet originated in the Roman Catholic Church, as part of the liturgy for Maundy Thursday.

Tenebrae Music

During the office of Tenebrae, the choral music serves as an echo and extension of the lessons that directly precede the choir. After Jesus confirms Judas’s forthcoming betrayal, and Peter’s future denials, Chancel Choir sings Oberlin graduate David Hurd’s anthem *O Sorrow Deep*. Imagine that the music is a representation of the sorrow and grief that the disciples might have felt following those conversations and admonishments. The final line of this anthem intimates an expressed desire of the disciples to remain with Christ for as long as possible. In a second confession of sorrow, the choir sings a macaronic selection (using two languages) written by British composer Thomas Morley. Following the fourth Tenebrae lesson, we might easily understand how Christ could have prayed, “I wish not the death of a sinner.” We conclude these three musical illustrations of sorrow with Italian composer Carlo Gesualdo’s *O vos omnes*. He employs musical tension or dissonance to convey the text “see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.” In this sense, *O vos omnes* serves as a musical conveyance of Christ’s realization that the disciples had fled and that he was left alone to face ultimate judgment and crucifixion.

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