

Maundy Thursday



St. John's United Church of Christ

prayers ■ promises ■ possibilities

03.28.24

St. John's United Church of Christ

Maundy Thursday
March 28, 2024 6:00 pm

Gathering and Preparing

Tonight we will gather in an ancient way. The earliest gatherings of Christ's church were meals that came together with whoever was present.

Reading 1

Matthew 26:17-19

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?"

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." The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover."

Setting the table

Reading 2

Matthew 26:21-25

"That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating he said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me."

Deeply saddened, each one said to him, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?"

He replied, "The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."

Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You said it."

Preparing our hearts for the meal

Now that we have prepared our space let us prepare our hearts.

Song #420

"I Come with Joy"

vs 1-3

**I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

Blessing the meal

Holy Communion by Ann Weems from Kneeling in Jerusalem

Eat. Drink. Remember who I am.

Eat. Drink. Remember Who I am
so you can remember who you are

Eat. Drink. Remember who I am
so you can remember who you are
and tell the others.

Eat. Drink. Remember who I am
so you can remember who you are
and tell the others
so that all God's people can live in communion...
in holy communion.

Breaking the Bread

Reading 3

Matthew 26:26

“While Jesus was eating bread with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks to God for it, he broke it, gave it to them, and said:

“Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me.””

Song #408

“Come, Share the Lord”

We gather here in Jesus' name

His love is burning in our hearts like living flame

For through the loving Son the Father makes us one

Come take the bread come drink the wine

Come share the Lord

Sharing the Bread of Life

Reading 4

Matthew 26:17-30

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.” Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Holy Conversation

As we continue to eat dinner, discuss the story of the Last Supper.

Discuss it however you like, perhaps using these questions:

- What would being one of the disciples at that table have been like? What questions would you have asked?
- How do you think Jesus felt during the Last Supper? What do you think was on his mind?
- Why do you think Jesus gave us Communion in this way? Why did he use the words he used?

Centering Music

To call us back together when the time for conversation is done, we will hear a song played.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

We Pray This Day by Ann Weems from Kneeling in Jerusalem

O God, we pray this day:

for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,
for all who live in chains they cannot break,
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,
for those who wait for loved ones
and wait in vain,
for those who live in hunger
and for those will not share their bread,
for those who are misunderstood
and for those who misunderstand,
for those who are captives and for those who are captors,
for those whose words of love are locked within their hearts
and for those who yearn to hear those words.
Have mercy upon these, O God,
Have mercy upon us all.

And so we pray the words Jesus Taught us...

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.

Blessing the Cup

We bless the cup at the end of our meal, just as Jesus did when he was at table with the disciples. Please make sure you have your cup for Communion ready.

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and said, "This is the cup of the renewed covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink of it, do this remembering me.

Sing #351

"Fill My Cup, Lord"

**Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy
And then I heard my Savior speaking
Draw from my well that never shall run dry**

**Fill my cup Lord I lift it up Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of heaven feed me till I want no more
Fill my cup fill it up and make me whole**

Closing

The Disciples by Ann Weems from Kneeling in Jerusalem

Hurting, they came to him.
Healed, they followed him.
Grateful, they gave to him
what they had and what they were
Blessed, they became a blessing
and went out to all the world
in his name.

Those who are hurt
and healed
grateful
and blessed
Still move among us
in his name.

Go and be one of them. Amen.

This service is adapted from a service created by Rev. Jon Philips and taken from Grace Commons, a former Missional Faith Community of Chicago Presbytery, written by Rev. Nanette Sawyer and Rob Clearfield, which in turn is based on the Dinner Church practice developed by St. Lydia's in Brooklyn.

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Preaching: Dir of Music Ministry:	Pastor Katie Jo Bielke Ruth Notch
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Worship Services

9:00 am - Fellowship

10:00 am – Worship

10:00 am – Sunday School

15370 Olive Blvd.
Chesterfield MO 63017
(636) 532-0540
stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com
www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

The background of the entire graphic is a light blue surface decorated with various Easter-themed items. There are several tulips in shades of yellow and pink, some with green leaves. Scattered around are numerous Easter eggs of different colors (pink, yellow, blue, white) and patterns (solid, wavy lines, spots, speckles).

Join Us

**Good Friday Service
March 29 at 7 PM**

**Easter Sunday
March 31 at 10 AM**

**We will celebrate the Good News of the
resurrection of Jesus Christ!**

**Easter Egg Hunt
On the front lawn
following the worship service.**