

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday  
Tenebrae Service

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 28, 2024

7:00PM

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

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## PRELUDE

*Gethsemane (Go to Dark Gethsemane)*

Tune by Richard Redhead  
Setting by Zach Unke

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

## WELCOME

## CHORAL INTROIT

*Cast Thy Burden upon the Lord (from Elijah)*

F. Mendelssohn (1809-47)

Sanctuary Choir

*\*Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The darkness deepens, and Jesus grows troubled.

**All: Can we watch with Him?**

One: Can we be the friends at his table who share his holy meal?

**All: Can we be the companions who journey with him to the end?**

One: Come, let us worship,

**All: let us watch, and let us give thanks for such great love.**

## \*HYMN #265

*All Praise to Thee, My God*

TALLIS' CANON

### Stanza 1:

All praise to Thee, my God, this night,  
For all the blessings of the light!  
Keep me, Creator of all things,  
Beneath the shelter of thy wings!

## PRAISE AND CONFESSION

**All: Loving Jesus, we are stunned at your passion and your commitment toward us. You did not run from the darkness. You did not hide from Your accusers. You did not fade into safe obscurity. You stepped with determination into the darkness, willingly giving yourself to whip and fist, to wood and nails.**

**We humbly offer our thanks and praise, for what you were prepared to endure to reconcile us with God; for your words of forgiveness, and the invitation to paradise.**

**Forgive us that allow ourselves to become too familiar with this story; that we take your suffering too lightly and receive your grace too cheaply. As we watch with you, while the darkness surrounds us, let us remember what this journey means, and count again the cost of love. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

### \*HYMN

*All Praise to Thee, My God*

TALLIS' CANON

#### Stanza 2:

**Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,  
The ill that I this day have done,  
That with the world, myself, and Thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE John 3:17

One: "For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

### \*HYMN

*All Praise to Thee, My God*

TALLIS' CANON

#### Stanza 3:

*(sung in canon, led by higher voices followed by lower voices.)*

**O may my soul on Thee repose,  
And with sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
Sleep that may me more vigorous make  
To serve my God when I awake.**

### THE FIRST CANDLE:

The Shadow of Betrayal Luke 22:1-6

Faye Binsfeld

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

### HYMN #186

*Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

### THE SECOND CANDLE:

The Shadow of What Is Lost Luke 22:14-23

Jerry Dees

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.

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*You are invited to eat the bread when you receive your communion elements.*

*Please wait to drink the cup until instructed. Communion elements are gluten free.*

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## COMMUNION PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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 REMEMBERING

## SHARING THE ELEMENTS

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*Fac ut portem* (from *Stabat Mater*)

G. B. Pergolesi (1710-1736)

Sam Gill, *LU Music Scholar* alto

*Stabat Mater* ("mother standing") refers to Mary standing at the base of the cross.

Fac, ut portem Christi mortem,  
passiónis fac consòrtem  
et plagas recòlere.

*Make me bear the death of Christ,  
Make me share His Passion,  
and His wounds remember.*

Fac me plagis vulnerári,  
cruce hac inebriári  
et cruòre Fílii.

*Make me be afflicted with those wounds  
And intoxicated with this Cross  
and blood of Your Son.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All: O God, by coming to your table with nothing, we receive everything.  
We give thanks for Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the light. Amen.**

### THE THIRD CANDLE:

The Shadow of Being Alone      Luke 22:39-46      Susan Forsythe

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

### \*HYMN #193

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

REDHEAD No. 76

1 & 2, only

### THE FOURTH CANDLE:

The Shadow of Misunderstanding      Luke 22:24-27      Dave Frederick

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

### ANTHEM

*Surely He Hath Borne our Grievs* (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

### MEDITATION "Remember Me"

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

### \*HYMN #192

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

1, 2 & 5, only

### THE FIFTH CANDLE:

The Shadow of Broken Trust      Luke 22:54-62      LouAnn Graf

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

Then a female servant, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter

said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

#### ANTHEM

*Alas, My Savior Died*

D. H. Williams

#### THE SIXTH CANDLE:

The Shadow of Humanity      Luke 22: 63-71

Eilene Hoft-March

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it who struck you?" They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question you, you will not answer.

But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

#### ANTHEM

*Behold the Lamb of God (from Messiah)*

G.F. Handel

#### THE SEVENTH CANDLE:

The Shadow of The Cross      Luke 23:13-25

Sue Wisneski

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!"

A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then

release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

#### HYMN #187

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23: 32-49

Pastor Nick Hatch

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

#### The Death of Jesus

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

#### \*HYMN #202

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

*The service ends in silence.*

*If you have brought an offering, please place it in the baskets as you leave. Thank you!*

THANK YOU TO TONIGHT'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Pastor Dianne Droster

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

Sam Gill, *LU Music Scholar alto*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE ~ March 29, 2024 ~ 12:00PM**

This service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 912 N. Oneida Street, Appleton, and will feature "The Seven Last Words of Jesus." The Affordable Housing Project will be the recipient of this service's offering. If you would like to join in singing with the Ecumenical Choir at this service, contact John Albrecht at [jalbrecht@uccappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@uccappleton.org). This service will be broadcast through YouTube by searching Zion Lutheran Church Appleton.

**EASTER SUNDAY ~ March 31, 2024 ~ 8:45AM and 10:30AM**

These services will feature the LU Faculty Brass Quintet & Timpani, Sanctuary Choir, LU Music Scholars, and a Scholar soloist.

Both Easter services will also be livestreamed.

Childcare will be available during the 8:45AM service.

Children should bring a basket or bag to take home goodies they'll collect during our Massive Egg Hunt between services, at 9:45AM.

**We are "The Church of the Open Door," a welcoming and inclusive Christian community.**

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**



—The Church of the Open Door—

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 3:00PM