



SERVICE OF
COMMUNION and
TENEBRAE

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 28, 2024
MAUNDY THURSDAY

We will celebrate the sacrament of communion in our worship tonight. If you are joining the worship service from home, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink before the service begins. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or something as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“When we celebrate the Meal, Christ brings us together with people whom we would never congregate with if we were to create our own community of love among like-minded people. The only thing that brings us together is our common participation in Christ’s gift, our common need for him, our common need for sticking together in the night of deliverance and liberation.”

Krister Stendahl

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends in Christ: it is Maundy Thursday, the day of the new commandment—that we, as followers of Christ, should love one another.

On this night we remember who we are:

Not just individual Christians, isolated believers.

We are together the body of Christ.

We are the friends of Jesus, a community of Christ’s disciples
and when one suffers we all suffer.

On this night we remember the events that make us who we are:

The meal Jesus shared with his disciples and gave to all who follow him.

His commandment that we love one another as he loved us.

The betrayal and desertion of Jesus by those closest to him.

His faithfulness to death, even death on a cross.

On this night we receive the things that nourish who we are:

The bread broken and wine poured out for us and for all people.

The renewal of our covenant with one another that together we might be a faithful body
of Christians.

The good news that even in the darkest hour

Christ is risen and goes before us.

*HYMN 353 “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here” (vs. 1-4)

**Great God, Your love has called us here
As we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
Though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
Your call to hear, Your love to find.**

**We come with self-inflicted pains
Of broken trust and chosen wrong,
Half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
By social forces swept along,
By powers and systems close confined,
Yet seeking hope for humankind.**

**Great God, in Christ You call our name
and then receive us as Your own,
Not through some merit, right or claim,
But by Your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
And find You kneeling at our feet.**

**Then take the towel, and break the bread,
And humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
And show how grandly love intends
To work till all creation sings,
To fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

*OPENING PRAYER

Ever gracious God, we gather this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago.

We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world.

We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits.

Remind us in the breaking of the bread of our need and of your sufficiency.

Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness.

Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving.

As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and redeemer. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#353, vs. 5)

**Great God, in Christ You set us free
Your life to live, Your joy to share.
Give us Your Spirit's liberty
To turn from guilt and dull despair
And offer all that faith can do
While love is making all things new**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Mark 14:22-25

John 13:3-17, 34-36

MEDITATION BEFORE COMMUNION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 503 "Come Risen Lord"

**Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest;
no, let us be your guests and with you dine;
at your own table now be manifest
in your own sacrament of bread and wine.**

**One body we, one body who partake,
one church united in communion blessed;
one name we bear, one bread of life we break,
with all your saints on earth and saints at rest.**

**One with each other, Lord, and one in you,
who are one Savior and one living head;
open our eyes to see with vision true;
be known to us in breaking of the bread.**

PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE SUPPER TOGETHER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Psalm 103:1-2)

**We thank you, God, for this meal and our ability to share in it together. May we take
strength from it as we extend ourselves to others.**

*HMYN 226 “Sing Praise Unto the Name of God” (Psalm 113)

**Sing praise unto the name of God.
Come, servants, now and offer laud.
Blest is Your name, O living Lord.
From this time forth and evermore,
O'er all the world from shore to shore,
O may Your name be long adored.
You, Lord, are ruler of all lands;
The works of states are in Your hands.
There is no other like You, God;
Your power is great, Your love is broad
All people live within Your power.
Sing praise in this and every hour.**

**You help the needy in distress,
And give them life that conquers death,
The great and small for You are one.
You grant the homeless sheltered space,
And empty people feel Your grace,
That in all times Your will is done.
I'll praise the Lord with all my breath,
And trust my Maker unto death.
Praise to the one who brings us life,
And holds us safe in every strife.
For God has conquered and is King;
Eternal One, to You we sing.**

TENEBRAE: THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

“When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” (Matthew 26:30)

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION Matthew 26:31-35 Tina Koepnick

THE AGONY OF THE SOUL Luke 22:39-44 Barb Sisley

HYMN 97 (vs. 1) “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

**Go to dark Gethsemane,
All that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away,
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray**

THE UNSHARED VIGIL Mark 14:37-41 Rebecca Weatherford

ARREST IN THE GARDEN John 18:2-5 John Fieselmann

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Maundy is derived from the Latin *mandatum*, which means “to command.” The word refers to the “New Commandment” to love one another that Jesus gave to the disciples at the supper on this Thursday, the night before his death. As we worship in these days, we do not pretend that we do not know what will happen to the crucified Jesus. All through these days the victory of Christ is contemplated and the resurrection is proclaimed.

Tenebrae is the Latin term for “shadows.” It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. It is historically associated with the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week, with the readings on those evenings commemorating the events of the following day. On Wednesday the readings commemorated the Last Supper and the betrayal and arrest of Jesus; on Thursday, Christ’s passion, trial, and death; and on Friday, Christ’s burial and the destitution of the disciples. Tonight, those events are combined in one service.

Friday, March 29

Good Friday Worship Service

Noon

Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Service led by Confirmation Class 7:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast Rockwood Hall, beginning at 8:30

Festival Easter Service with Brass and Choir 10:15 a.m.