



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28, 2024

6:30 p.m.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Worship of God

Childcare is available for children 4 and under on the first floor nursery hall.

*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.

Large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please ask a member of our Welcome Team for assistance.

The word “maundy” is derived from the Latin word mandatum, the first word of the Latin phrase, “Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos” (“A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you”), the statement used by Jesus in John’s gospel to explain the significance of washing the disciples’ feet. Maundy Thursday is also the night that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper with the words, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

The Pre-Service Music

Offered by The Hodgson Quartet | Alexis Boylan and Molly Schneider, violin;
Bryan Johnson, viola; Thomas LaMon, cello

The Prelude

“Ave Verum” | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Betsy Butler

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 700 “Abide with Me” | EVENTIDE

**The Prayer of Confession*

God of love, your Son Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, proclaimed to us a new commandment: love for one another. Bind us in that love and make us servants of each other. Let conflict be unknown among us, and lead us to forgive one another as you forgive us. Help us to seek you among those who need you most, to empty ourselves of all envy and pride, and become joyful servants of the poor and suffering. Where we have not served, fill us with your servant spirit. Where we have not loved, transform us with your loving ways. Where we have not forgiven, grace us with your forgiving nature. If we did not know you when we entered our city, or hear you when you spoke the words of life, Lord have mercy. If we failed to understand when you broke the bread of life in our midst, Christ have mercy. If we failed to understand when you took the bowl and the towel to serve us, Christ have mercy. If we did not recognize you in the garden of our time and place, Lord have mercy. Wash us and prepare us to celebrate the obedience of Jesus, whose love led him to the cross.

This is Christ's body, broken for us that we might be whole. This is the cup of the new covenant proclaiming forgiveness for all who call upon God's name. We, who call upon God's holy name, are forgiven through Christ's holiness and grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

**The Kyrie* | Antonin Dvorak

Translation: *Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.

The Scripture Reading | Matthew 26:20-35

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Message | Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby

"Scattered"

The Anthem

“The Lord Is My Shepherd” | John Rutter

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Reid Messich, oboe; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music

This anthem has been placed in the choir library to the Glory of God and in memory of Delores Kennedy Chorneyko, sister of Gail Walton, by Carlyn Haley and Evelyn Winstead.

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Psalm 23

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From the earth you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You fed us manna in the wilderness and gave grapes as evidence of the promised land. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When we had turned aside from your way and abused your gifts, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Emptying himself, that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet, and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "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, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.* Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Sung: **Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

The Receiving of the Bread and Cup

*At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free communion elements are available. *In the United Methodist Church, grape juice is used for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

The Music during Communion

"In My Father's House" | Philip W. J. Stopford

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir with the String Quartet

In my Father's house are many dwellings, and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you I am going to prepare a place for you? Where I am going, you know the way. For I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you also know my Father. My spirit is with you always. The Advocate, the Spirit of Truth will remind you of all I have said. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid. I have told you I will come back to you; have faith in me.
From John 14

The Scripture Reading | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

Matthew 26:36-46

The Stripping of the Altar

To remember that night, all worship articles and adornments are removed from the altar and chancel. This symbolizes both the suspension of Holy Communion and the abandonment of Jesus Christ.

The Recessional

"Where He Leads Me" | NORRIS

All depart in silence.

Holy Week worship continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 12:00 noon.



GOOD FRIDAY

March 29 | Worship 12:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31

Sunrise at the Steeple 7:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Worship 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Come and experience the hope and joy of Easter with us at Athens First United Methodist Church!

Join us on **Easter Sunday, March 31**, as we celebrate our risen Savior with three triumphant worship services.

Our 7:00 a.m. Sunrise at the Steeple service will take place in front of our sanctuary on North Lumpkin Street. It will feature uplifting music, an inspiring message, and coffee and refreshments courtesy of the **Café Racer** food truck.

Our traditional 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. sanctuary worship services will feature our choir, brass, and handbells. You're also invited to help us decorate our floral Easter cross located outside in front of the church. Overflow seating will be available for both services.

We hope you can join us as we celebrate the good news of Easter —

“He is not here. He is Risen!”

FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

Rev. Jeremy Lawson | Senior Minister
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Rev. Betsy Butler | Associate Minister
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Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby | Associate Minister
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