

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fort Dodge, IA



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.

The people of the United Methodist Church®

March 29, 2018

Maundy Thursday

**Indicates you are invited to stand if you are comfortable doing so*

GATHERING

"Jesus Christ, Our Lord Redeemer"

J.S. Bach

CENTERING WORDS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has delivered us from bondage and has set us free.

This is a night of remembrance.

Washing our feet, Jesus shows us that to love is to serve.

This is a night to reflect on our faith.

Bread has been broken; wine has been poured.

This is a night to journey to our past.

A new commandment has been given: Love one another.

This is a night to reclaim our story.

Through these acts, we remember that our story lives on.

This is a night of remembrance.

***HYMN**

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy!"

UMH #340

OPENING PRAYER

God of our ancestors, we have come tonight to remember. We have come to recall your saving power and your steadfast love for all people. We have come to the Upper Room with Jesus: to be washed, to be fed, to be taught, and to follow his example of service and sacrifice. Through our words and through our actions, draw us into the sacred story of faith once again, that we might love and serve one another as your disciples. Amen

Pastor: The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we are not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark, night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of him. He threatens their comfort. He threatens their way of life. He threatens their power. They will come for him. First though, we will gather. We gather with Jesus and his closest friends. We gather with those that called him teacher, Rabbi, friend. We gather for the Passover meal, to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

ALL: God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God who reigns, not the Pharaoh. Our God saved once. God saves forevermore.

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
UMH #384

SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:7-13

CHANCEL CHOIR

"Behold the Lamb"
David Shipps
Brian Robison, Cello

SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:14-23

***HYMN**

"Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast"
UMH # 339
VS 1,3,5

MESSAGE**HYMN**

"In Remembrance of Me"
FWS #2254

REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER

Liturgist: Jesus gathered his closest friends for a final time. They gathered around a table for a meal. Even as they were sharing this sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that he was asking much from these men, and he knew that they would fail him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry at some slight? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman "wasted" when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas' heart, but Jesus knew that he would be betrayed. And what did Jesus do with the man that would betray him? He broke bread with him. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked:

ALL: I would never betray you, Lord. It's not me, is it?

Pastor: On the night in which Jesus was betrayed by his friend, he took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Liturgist: When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples and said, "Drink from this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

Pastor: 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.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by Christ's blood. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, 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 Father now and forever.

And now, with the confidence of Children of God, let us pray,

***HYMN**

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"
FWS #2112

Liturgist: Afterwards, Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray for him, for he wanted to be alone. There, Jesus prayed. He asked his friends to keep watch, but they kept falling asleep. He prayed for another way out. He prayed in anguish. He prayed as a man who could feel pain, who would be hurt by betrayal, who would be scarred by the scourge, and would bleed when nails were driven into his arms and legs. He prayed as a man who knew that if he followed God's will, he would be charged, convicted, mocked, humiliated, abandoned, and nailed to a cross. Knowing all of this full well he prayed, "Not my will, but yours." Then he stood up for all that he had lived for. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come to into the time of trial"

All: Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi" and kissed him. Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

***HYMN**

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"
UMH #290
VS 1-3

Pastor: There was a brief uproar at the arrest, but his disciples quickly scattered. Peter, who had only hours before promised

to go with Jesus to prison, even death, followed from a distance. During the trial, Peter remained hidden in the shadows. First a servant girl saw him and said, "This man was also with him."

All: "Madam, I do not know him."

Liturgist: A little later someone else, on seeing him said, "You also are one of them."

All: "Sir, I am not."

Pastor: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man was with him; for he is a Galilean."

All: "I do not know what you are talking about. I do not know Jesus."

Liturgist: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him, and he wept bitterly.

***HYMN**

"Take Up Thy Cross"

UMH #415

Vs 1-3

***BENEDICTION**

Our journey is not complete. There are more barriers that we must encounter. Remember this night and our meal together.

Remember the witness of the disciples. Be prepared. The darkness of Good Friday awaits. You must continue the journey. Go in peace. Christ's love is with you always. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Take Up Thy Cross"
UMH #415
Vs4

POSTLUDE

"Gethsemane"
Otto Malling

Stripping of the table (All of the items that adorn the Lord's table, and all of the liturgical banners are removed in silence)

Please join First United Methodist Church for Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church will hold Easter Morning service at 9:45 a.m. All are welcomed!