

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY!

We are delighted that you are here in celebration and worship at St. John UCC. The members and friends of our faith community hope that you will encounter God in a meaningful and profound way, and that God's Spirit will inspire you today to live your faith out loud.

We hope that you want to discover more about the congregation and its ministry in the community of Freeport, across our state and nation, and around the world. Please ask one of our ushers or visit us:

on the Web: [www.stjohnuccfreeport.org](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)

on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport)

**For our younger guests,** Worship Enrichment "Busy Bags" are available in the Narthex. These are located at the counter outside of the Chapel Hearth Room. Check in with an usher to organize a bag!

**Parents and guardians are also welcome to use Room S3, the Infant Room, to care for their families as needed.** There is a television in the room to view the worship service in real time.

**Assisted Listening Devices** are located at the Sound Board in the back of the Sanctuary. Earpiece and "Induction Loops" for hearing aids are both available. Please ask an usher for assistance in their use.

**Please remember to return your name tag on your way home.** We will have them waiting for your return next week!

**If you cannot join us in person,** you will always have a front row seat on our live stream at [facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live).

Scan this code to access our Online Giving Portal:



We thank you for your continued generous support of St. John UCC.

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the good news is...even Judas gets his feet washed



Flow  
Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell  
11"x14" Acrylic on paper

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**ST JOHN**  
United Church of Christ  
Freeport, Illinois

MAUNDY THURSDAY

the good news is...even Judas gets his feet washed

April 2, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE      *Love Consecrates the Humblest Act*      arr. M. Burkhardt

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If God threw a party,  
all would be invited.

**All: If God hosted a dinner,  
would there be a seat saved for each of us?**

One: If God prepared a banquet,  
a cheer would go up when you arrived.

**All: But we bring so much with us:  
weariness, tiredness, frustration, anger, and fear...**

One: This is the good news:  
God is throwing a party,

**All: And God has invited everyone,  
from every place and every time, including us.**

One: On this night of shadows and sorrow,  
it is good to gather together.

**All: May we all be one body gathered at Christ's table,  
that we might remember what discipleship costs,  
and what it may reap.**

\* HYMN #274      *An Upper Room with Evening Lamps*      EVENTIDE

\* An asterisk is an invitation to rise as one is able (in body or spirit).  
Please silence your mobile devices before the beginning of worship.

All Hymns can be found in the Worship and Rejoice hymnal.

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## REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER

### CENTERING PRAYER

A Litany of the News, good and otherwise *Please continue on Insert*

### THE WITNESS OF SCRIPTURE

John 13:3-17

*Jesus washes the Disciples' feet*

### COMMUNION SONG

*Remember Me* Kruger / Innes  
The Chancel Choir

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Jesus said to the faithful,  
“I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover  
with you before I suffer.”  
“Take this and share it among yourselves.  
I tell you that from now on I won’t drink from the fruit  
of the vine until God’s kingdom has come.”

**All: We accept the cup, all that it holds,  
and the good news it represents.  
And we give thanks for God’s good gifts.**

### BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.

### THE NEW COMMANDMENT

John 13:34-35

*“Love one another, just as I have loved you.”*

## SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.  
Christ’s table is open to all who wish to participate.  
Red Wine and White Grape juice and **all bread is gluten free**  
meeting the personal and dietary needs of every person.*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (spoken together)

Good news God, we witness unheard of things.  
You have shown us in Christ that mercy and love  
can overcome the pain and sorrow of the world.

We ask, Living Spirit, to be a healing grace to all who live with  
us in this world. We ask, strengthened by Christ, that we may  
live in love, grow in peace, and work to heal the broken places  
and hurting people of our world.

Fed at this table, we recommit to our covenant to follow in  
Christ’s way, and pray together, “...that all may be one.” Amen

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## THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

*Following each section of readings,  
a moment of silent prayer and reflection will be observed.*

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*After the candles are lit, please join together in prayer:*

One: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

**All: “Anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness  
but will have eternal life.”**

One: If I say, “Let the darkness cover me,  
and the light around me turn to night,”  
darkness is like day to you, O God.

**All: The night is as bright as the day;  
darkness and light are to you both alike.**

### SONG OF SORROW *Within the Darkest Night*

Derek K. Hakes

The Bell Choir

## THE STORIES AND SONGS

First Reading *Shadow of Betrayal* Matthew 26:20-25

Hymn #257 vv. 1-2 What Wondrous Love is This WONDROUS LOVE

Second Reading *Shadow of Desertion* Matthew 26:31-35

Third Reading *Shadow of Lethargy* Luke 22:39-44

Hymn #272 vv. 1-2 Go to Dark Gethsemane REDHEAD NO. 76

Fourth Reading *Shadow of Violence* Mark 14:32-41

Fifth Reading *Shadow of Denial* John 17:1-6

Hymn #284 vv. 1-2 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
PASSION CHORALE

Sixth Reading *“That all may be one”* John 17:15 -22

Seventh Reading *Arrest in the Garden* John 18:1-5

Hymn #261 vv. 1,3 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross HAMBURG

Eighth Reading *Shadow of Judgment* Matthew 27: 20-26

Ninth Reading *Shadow of the Cross* Mark 15:16-20

Hymn #255 vv.1,3 Beneath the Cross of Jesus ST. CHRISTOPHER

Tenth Reading *“The Word was God”* John 1 (Paraphrased)

### DARKENING OF THE CROSS

Hymn #283 *Were You There?* TRAD SPIRITUAL

### SILENT DEPARTURE

*As you leave the sanctuary, please remain in silence.*

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### Easter / Resurrection Sunday Services

**6:00 am – Sunrise Service, with Communion**  
The Sunrise Service will take place on the church lawn (weather  
permitting).

**10:00 am – Celebration Service, with Communion**  
Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! Come share in the  
transformation of Good Friday to Easter, grief to new life!

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St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

an Open and Affirming, Racial Justice Congregation,  
where God is Still Speaking,



# A Litany of the News, good and otherwise

One: God of love, you have listened to your people throughout history. You have given them light and shelter, warmth and nourishment. In Jesus, you have shown us how to love and care for each other, especially the most vulnerable.

Today we want to listen to you as we listen to each other.

**All: Your glory shines everywhere and we are grateful!**

One: We say, "Glory! Glory! Glory!"

Your ears are on the ground for those who have nobody!

**All: We say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you, God!"**

One: Your presence is never away from us,  
but moves within our breathing!

**All: We say, "Ahhh! Ahhh! Ahhh!"** (*breathe these words without voice*)

One: The night before Jesus was arrested by the police of the empire, he washed the feet of his disciples and taught them to embody the symbol of the towel everywhere they went: offering care and love, being of service.

**All: As Jesus washed the disciples' feet,  
he listened to their words, sounds, and breathing.**

One: God of silence and God of thunder,  
we listened to the birds, searching for your glory of creation.  
We listened to a song, searching for the beauty humans create.  
We listened to each to restore and care for one another.

**All: And we heard your steadfast love and companionship.  
The world is so hard right now, but we have all we need!  
We have the towel, we have food, we have each other,  
we have your Spirit.**

One: Look friends, God has food for you and for me;  
Enough for everyone.  
Look friends, God has given us this cup for you and me.  
Enough to quench our thirst and find joy!

**All: We hear Jesus say "remember me," and we do.  
We remember so no one in this community will go hungry  
or unassisted.**

One: But God we know from listening to each other  
that not all of the news is good.

In the limbo of uncertainty, when all we can do is wait  
with those between paychecks, between jobs, between meals,  
with those in hospital rooms or prison cells,

**All: Ever-present Jesus, abide.**

One: With those who fight to be believed by doctors, who wait for  
diagnosis, treatment, or results, and with those who have Long  
COVID or other serious conditions,

**All: Jesus the Suffering Savior, abide.**

One: With those in the closet, and those who've just come out, with  
those waiting for surgery, or HRT, or radical acceptance,

**All: Queer God, abide.**

One: With those who are sick of waiting: Indigenous people whose  
loved ones disappear in silence, Black communities burning out  
in the endless efforts to resist injustice,

**All: Black Christ, native of occupied land, abide.**

One: With all who scramble between life and death, survival and  
thriving: immigrants and refugees, border crossers and ICE  
detainees, the people bombed, displaced, and denied aid,

**All: Jesus the refugee, abide.**

One: With those enduring the worst of climate change, and all whose  
homes or whole communities have been ravaged by natural  
disasters,

**All: Creator God, abide.**

One: With all whom our society fails to protect: those who are  
unhoused, and those whose homes are fractured by violence,  
those experiencing mental illness or addiction, and all who are  
shoved to the margins,

**All: Persecuted Christ, abide.**

One: And now, as we break this bread and drink from this cup,  
may this meal nourish us.

**All: Pour out your Spirit upon this holy feast,  
the one you shared with friends and betrayers,  
not long before you took your last breath.**

**May it give us courage, just as it surely gave you courage  
on that night many years ago. Amen.**