

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28, 2024



Photo: Deb Boucher

WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are an "Open and Affirming" Church



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

"Jesus, Remember Me"
Chancel Choir

REMEMBER ME

INVITING THE WORD

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

One: This night is special.

Many: This night is Holy.

One: This night begins our remembrance of Jesus' unselfish sacrifice for us.

Many: This night Jesus asked us to remember Him at table.

All: Let us gather in obedience to remember God's love for us.

*** OPENING HYMN #211 "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" (vs. 1,2)**

LONESOME VALLEY

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

Lord, we thank You for the gift of Your Son. May our entry into the mysteries of His life, death and resurrection give us the confidence to live with strong faith in Your ever present and abiding love. We make this prayer to You in Jesus' name and continue using the words He gave us...

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

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.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

Merciful, Mighty, Matchless God, You have loved us to the end.

There was betrayal in our heart, yet You loved us anyway.

You knew we would deny You, yet You loved us anyway.

We sought to point the finger at anyone but ourselves, Yet You loved us anyway.

Forgive us we pray. Renew our healing convictions, restore our call to service, rekindle our flame for justice, that we may once again become Your people of peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*HYMN #384

“Here at Thy Table, Lord” (VS. 1,2)

BREAD OF LIFE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (as found on the inside cover of your hymn book)

INVITATION

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Jesus, we want to live the abundant life You promised us. We thank You that in this feast You have given us the strength for that journey. Give us courage to claim You when others betray, courage to follow You when others desert, courage to love even when we are not loved in return. You have broken Yourself open to share Your love and life with us. Help us to do the same, loving serving and caring for Your world. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Behold the Wood”
Chancel Choir

Comp. by Dan Schutte
Arr. by Joseph Stillitano

*Behold, behold the wood of the cross
On which is hung our salvation,
O come, let us adore.*

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon
The ground and die,
It shall remain but a single grain and not give life.*

*And when my hour of glory comes
As all was meant to be,
You shall see me lifted up upon a tree.*

For there can be no greater love

*Shown upon this land than in the One
Who came to die that we might live.*

THE SERVICE OF TENNEBRAE

LESSON ONE:	Matthew 26:2-16	Jesus Announces His Betrayal
LESSON TWO:	Matthew 26:17-30	Jesus Shares the Bread and Cup

HYMN #197	"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (vs. 1,2)	ST. CHRISTOPHER
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LESSON THREE:	Matthew 26:36-39	Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
LESSON FOUR:	Matthew 26:40-46	The Disciples Fall Asleep

HYMN #196	"Go to Dark Gethsemane" (vs. 1,2)	REDHEAD 76
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LESSON FIVE:	Matthew 26:47-56	Jesus is arrested in the Garden
LESSON SIX:	Matthew 26:57-75	Jesus' Trial and Peter's Denial

HYMN #202	"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (vs. 1,2)	PASSION CHORALE
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LESSON SEVEN:	Matthew 27:1-2,11-26	Pilate Washes His Hands
LESSON EIGHT:	Matthew 27:27-31	The Soldiers Mock Jesus

DRAPING OF THE CROSS

THE DARKNESS:	Matthew 27:32-37	Jesus is Led Out to Be Crucified
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HYMN #198	"Were You There"	WERE YOU THERE
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LESSON NINE:	John 1:1-5	A Light Shines In the Darkness
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The congregation will depart in silence
following the Christ candle and the worship leaders.

Deacons: Steve and Cathie Achorn

Acolytes: Lawson Jackson, Cora Fitzgibbons

Readers: Linda Birch, Linda Borglund, Darvin Kapitz, Pam Faustine, Doug Wales, Ted Jaworski, Roland Regnier, and Steve Achorn