

Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ

Maundy Thursday



April 1, 2021

7:00 pm

A Just Peace Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A God is Still Speaking Congregation

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

“Herongate”

Andrew Moore

Call to Worship

One: The Lenten evenings have grown longer and longer; perhaps we’ve found Christ’s hope in the lingering sunlight.

All: **On this night, Jesus used simple tools to show love – a bowl, water, a meal. Let us join in this historic moment. Holy One, we come before You.**

One: The Lenten days have encouraged us to consider miracles, once again and hold love, even in the face of fear. On this night, Jesus used simple tools to show love – a bowl, water, a meal. Let us join in this historic moment.

All: **Holy One, we come before You.**

One: Lenten days will meet new beginnings, so says the word of the Lord. We aim to love one another as is written in Your sacred text.

All: **Holy One, we come before You.**

Hymn

The Time Was Early Evening

NCH (black) #344

1 The time was ear-ly eve-ning, the place a room up - stairs;
2 The com - pa - ny of Je - sus had met to share a meal;
3 “The bread and bod-y bro - ken, the wine and blood out - poured,
4 Christ Je - sus, now a - mong us, con - firm our faith’s in - tent,

The guests were the dis - ci - ples, few in num-ber and few in prayers.
The One who made them wel-come had much more to re - veal.
The cross and kitch - en ta - ble are one by my sign and word.”
As, with your words and ac - tions, we u - nite in this sac - ra - ment.

Refrain

Oh, the food comes from the bak - er; the drink comes from the vine;

The words come from the Sav - ior, "I will meet you in bread and wine."

Gathering Ritual, an Invitation to Cleansing Waters

A simple rinsing of our hands; if you like have a simple vessel (a bowl will do) with a bit of water

Officiant: On this night we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and the commandments given. It was a night of hope as they gathered so long ago. Jesus took this time together with his disciples to teach more of what they needed to know in order to follow in his ministry. "During the meal Jesus rose, removed his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself."

Respondent: "Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him."

Officiant: The disciples may have wondered why Jesus washed their feet. Peter, as was fitting his character, was the one who spoke up:

Respondent: Lord, are you going to wash my feet? When Jesus said yes, Peter responded with, "You will never wash my feet!"

Officiant: But Jesus, was a servant of all people, one who gave all. And in the Hebrew Bible, it is said that the priests were required to wash their feet before coming before God.

Respondent: Lord, please cleanse my way so I may come before God.

If you have water, rub your hands together gently or those of the person and/or people you are beside; imagine God's cleansing love. Imagine Christ is by your side.

Officiant: After Jesus finished washing the disciple's feet he came back to the table and explained his actions. "So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." Jesus set the example of being a humble servant.

Respondent: Lord, please help us be humble and caring of others.

Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: On this sacred evening, good news comes to us in Love, in Christ. God as revealed in Holy Spirit and in Jesus reveals to us new opportunities for peace and for meaning. Let us dwell in this grace and mercy, let us find hope.

All: We are called to proclaim liberty to the captives and to become love in the face of fear. Let us recall and believe: there is nothing, nothing here, nothing anywhere else that will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus; it is for this promise and Spirit that we sing.

Response Savior, When in Tears and Dust NCH (black) #185
**Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
By your days of sore distress in the savage wilderness,
By the dread mysterious hour of the insulting tempter's power:
Turn, O turn a favoring eye, hear our solemn litany.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Exodus 12: 1-4, 11 – 14 John 13: 1-17

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. May God grant us a sense of meaning as we move on this divine path; we pray that Holy Spirit move between words and hearing.

All: Amen.

Message "A Double Share" Rev. Sara M. Holland

Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PH (red) #107

1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, And with fear and trem-bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, As of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en Spreads its van-guard on the way,
4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; Cher-u-bim, with sleep-less eye,

Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly-mind-ed, For with bless-ing in his hand,
Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture, In the bod-y and the blood,
As the Light of light de-scend-eth From the realms of end-less day,
Veil their fa-ces to the pres-ence, As with cease-less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de-scend-eth, Our full hom-age to de-mand.
He will give to all the faith-ful His own self for heav-en-ly food.
That the powers of hell may van-ish As the dark-ness clears a-way.
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High! A-men.

Remembering The Last Supper

Invitation to Holy Communion

One: This is the night of love. And this is the table of love. At this table, Christ, who loves us, is with us.

All: Jesus is with us; we belong to God. We are God's with all our fears, all our grumbling, all our hesitations, all our loves, all our joys, and all our passions. We are God's!

Offering our prayers of Gratitude

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

Musical Interlude “Miniatures for Organ: Six: Moderato” Herbert Howells

Closing Prayer

All: Thank You, God; You have united us with Jesus in a sacred mystery. We are no longer our own, but Yours. Send us, and put us to leading and serving, loving as You have loved us wherever we go. Hear us as we offer up the prayer which you taught us:

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.

Sending

Officiant: After the meal, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn before they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Mark 14:26)

Hymn Journey to Gethsemane NCH (black) #219, verse 1

**Journey to Gethsemane
Go and feel the tempter's power
Your Redeemer's conflict see,**

**Watch the anguish of this hour;
Do not hide or turn away: learn from Jesus how to pray.**

Benediction

Postlude

“Caswall”

Richard Lloyd

For the service:

Before the time of the service, you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup.

We'll also have a time to experience the cleansing waters of God's earth (simple hand rinsing) ; this will provide us a reminder not only of how Jesus served the disciples on the night of The Last Supper but also of the waters of baptism. If you want, add a simple bowl of water next to food and drink you have set aside. However you prepare, do so with intention.

Thank you for your preparation.

One Great Hour of Sharing was on March 28th: Our gifts to OGHS enables the UCC to be present for the long term in disaster recovery as we partner with churches and organizations around the world to walk with families as they rebuild their lives.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your OGHS gift this year. The need truly is great.

We invite you to make checks out to our church and add a memo that reads OGHS so our finance team can ensure funds are appropriately allocated.

Keeping in Prayer

Jamie McDougall and family, friends of Alice O’Conner
Sympathy to the family of Gypsy the cat, beloved member of Jim Preston’s household
Prayers for the Plymouth State community as a student passed away
Sarah Thorne Marjorie Glidden and family
Dick & Paulette Brace Alice & Margaret Avery
Lisa and Dawn, friends of Plymouth Congregational
Annie Rice, Bev Tedeschi’s mother Sue Switaj
Terry Cote & David Cote, close friends of Alice O’Connor
Jean Nilson, Susan Wei’s sister Heidi Watts, Fran Lewis’ sister
Judy Detzel, friend of Hanna Starck

Prayers for those administering and receiving the first COVID-19 vaccines.
All those who are sick or have family member/s who have passed during the pandemic.
If you have a prayer request, you would like Rev. Sara to include in Sunday Worship,
please email her at plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org.

The Rev. Sara M. Holland, Pastor	plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org
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