



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 2020

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 7-9.

Prelude

Prayer of Invocation

God, we come to you on this Maundy Thursday, giving thanks for the presence of your Holy Spirit, joining us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 171 (Pilgrim; see p. 7) *There Is a Green Hill Far Away*

Horsley

Lenten Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Open our hearts to you, that we may receive your forgiveness and be redeemed by your reconciling love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know that all who come before God with an open and contrite heart, that all who sincerely repent, are forgiven.

Lesson from the Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash

my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”[...]

^{31b}Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Homily

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 170 (Pilgrim; see p. 8) *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

Passion Chorale

Pastoral Prayer

Almighty God, we lift up our prayers to you on this Maundy Thursday, lifting up those who are ill, those who mourn, those who fear, those ridden with anxiety, those with any and every need. We pray especially for the members of this community, desiring that you embrace them with your love and peace.

We lift up this broken world, filled with worry, plagued by a menacing disease, hobbled by a crippled economy. We worry not about the numbers or statistics, but about the people affected and the lives upturned.

On this day we ask that you will comfort and support us, just as Jesus cared for his disciples. And though we may falter, we are confident of your steadfastness, relying upon it, along with your power, your grace and your love.

The Lord’s Prayer (*Unison*)

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.

The Eucharist

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation

Out of all the times and places of our lives, we come to this sacred time and place for one meal we all celebrate together. As the Body of Christ and members one of another, we are about the Lord's Supper. Let no one hold back out of fear or guilt. We eat together with people we love, and here is love offered to you. Here is forgiveness of everything. Come, let us prepare to feast.

Luke the Evangelist records that on the evening of the first day of the week, the same day on which our Lord rose from the dead, when He was at table with two of the disciples, He took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they knew Him.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is the table of the Lord. It is set in love. It is spread before us with compassion. It is to be consumed in faith. Each person here is welcome at this meal of God's, which is freely given for our spiritual nourishment.

If your intentions are to lead a new life in Christ, you are welcome.

If your heart is willing to venture ordinary love with average people, you are welcome.

If you are part of this or any other household of faith, your faith or desire to have faith in Jesus makes you welcome here.

Come, now, and share in the feast of the Lord.

Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, Lord God, our Creator, for bringing the worlds into being, for forming us in your likeness, for recalling us when we rebel against you, and for holding all the cosmos in your steadfast love.

We praise you especially for Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary and lived as one of us; who knew exactly the life we know, and yet was obedient to your purposes, even to his death on a cross.

We thank you that you stamped his death with victory by raising him in power and by making him head over all things.

We rejoice in the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit, in the church you have gathered, in its task of service and witness, and in the promise of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name. Bless now, by your Word and Spirit, both us and these gifts of bread and wine, that in receiving them at this table and in offering here our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and one another and remain faithful to the tasks he sets before us.

In the strength Christ gives we offer ourselves to you, giving thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

Sanctus (*Unison*)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Lord Jesus, the same night on which he was betrayed, took bread, gave it to his disciples, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “Take, eat; This is my body, which is given for you: do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, “Drink this all of you: This is my Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Here are the gifts of God, for the people of God. Ministering to you in his name, we share the bread and the cup.

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 163 (Pilgrim; see p. 9) *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended?* Herzliebster Jesu

Service of Tenebrae

First Reading

Matthew 26:20-25

²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

Second Reading

Matthew 26:31-35

³¹Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” ³³Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.” ³⁴Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

Third Reading

Luke 22:39-44

³⁹He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” ⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Fourth Reading

Mark 14:32-41

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

Fifth Reading

John 17:1-6

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.”

Sixth Reading

John 17:15-22

¹⁵“I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

Seventh Reading

John 18:1-5

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “For whom are you looking?” ⁵They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

Eighth Reading

Mark 15:16-20

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Ninth Reading

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Stripping of the Altar

Please depart in silence.

We invite you to continue the journey of Holy Week, through Christ's Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. We will offer recorded services on our website (www.fccleb.org) for Good Friday and Easter, and we will be emailing an invitation to our live Zoom service on Easter morning at 10:00. Please contact the church office (603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org) with any questions or to receive the Zoom link.

There Is a Green Hill Far Away

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Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895

First Tune

HORSLEY C.M.

William Horsley, 1774-1858

1 There is a green hill far a - way, With-out a cit - y wall,
 2 We may not know, we can - not tell What pains he had to bear,
 3 He died that we may be for - given, He died to make us good,
 4 O dear - ly, dear - ly has he loved! And we must love him too,

Where the dear Lord was cru - ci - fied, Who died to save us all.
 But we be - lieve it was for us He hung and suf - fered there.
 That we might go at last to heaven, Saved by his pre - cious blood.
 And trust in his re - deem - ing blood, And try his works to do. A - men.

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O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

*Latin: 12th century**German: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676**Tr. James W. Alexander, 1804-1859, alt.*

PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.

*Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612**Harm. by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750*

1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank thee, dear - est friend;

Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, thy on - ly crown,
 Mine, mine was the trans - ges - sion, But thine the dead - ly pain.
 For this thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?

How art thou pale with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; And, should I faint - ing be,

How does that vis - age lan - guish Which once was bright as morn!
 Look on me with thy fa - vor, Vouch - safe to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love to thee! A - men.

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Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

Johann Heermann, 1585-1647
Tr. Robert S. Bridges, 1844-1930

HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5.
Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
3 For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion,
4 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,

That man to judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee! 'Twas I, Lord
Thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; Thy death of
I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, Think on thy

rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, For my sal - va - tion.
pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, Not my de - serv - ing. A - men.