



Maundy Thursday Worship

**April 9, 2020
at 1 p.m. on Facebook Live**

**Or in the Afternoon on Our Church Website at
westminsterakron.org**

To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle. If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at westminsterakron.org.

The Maundy Thursday service is one of endings and beginnings. What was begun on Ash Wednesday is brought to a close here today. What begins today does not end until the resurrection of Easter. It is the ancient Triduum, "The Three Sacred Days," which lead us to Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

The theme is love, our Savior's love for us, expressed in the washing of the disciples' feet, in giving himself in bread and wine, in dying upon the cross. An invitation to confession is given. The focus is on forgiveness. On Ash Wednesday, we began Lent with a major act of confession and ashes.

The lessons of love are read. A new command derives from it: "Love one another." A song and a sign of love goes with it. The prayers are said. The Lord is revealed. It is a solemn moment, but we cannot linger here. Nor could the Lord. His betrayal was imminent.

Before we know it, the markings of betrayal are seen before us. The chancel is stripped bare. Christ is stripped of his power and glory. Good Friday is inescapable. The powers of darkness work upon him. In silence, we depart without benediction. The Three Sacred Days continue with the Good Friday service tomorrow at 1 p.m. on Facebook Live or, later that afternoon, on the church website. Our virtual Easter worship service can be accessed on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. or, from that afternoon onward, on our church website.

Voluntary I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

In worship on this day, we testify to God's love shown perfectly in Christ, and we recommit ourselves to love one another as a community of faith.

Hymn 101 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled
down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a
crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts,
and still you love us - you have loved us to the end.

We have denied you,
and we have denied our calling to serve one another.

We have betrayed you,
and we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.

Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.

**Teach us to love and serve you faithfully and to love and serve
one another by the example you have set for us; in your holy
name we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson

John 13:1-11

New Testament

1 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. 2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 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. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus 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." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

The Second Lesson

John 13:12-17, 31b-35

New Testament

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

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little 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.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Homily The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

Prayers of Intercession

Solo: Were You There?

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

Paul Stewart, soloist

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Shrouding of the Chancel

The Service concludes in reflective silence. The congregation is invited to join our online services for Good Friday (at 1:00 p.m.) and Easter Sunday (at 10:30 a.m.).



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