



West Grove United Methodist Church

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The Rev. Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor

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Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2015



Easter Sunday Schedule:

6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service

8:30 a.m. - Resurrection Service (Contemporary)

11:00 a.m. - Resurrection Service (Traditional)

WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maundy Thursday

PRELUDE

GREETING

One: Tonight, we journey with Jesus. We begin with the disciples in the Upper Room and Holy Communion. We move to the Garden of Gethsamene in prayer. We end tonight with the trials that led Jesus to the foot of the cross. Jesus journeys with us. Let us journey with him.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John McGinley

One: On this night, we break bread with Jesus in the upper room.

Many: Let us share in the meal that God has prepared for us!

One: On this night, we pray with Jesus to a dark, quiet garden.

Many: Let us lift up our prayers and seek God's will!

One: On this night, we stand with disciples at the foot of Jesus' cross.

Many: Let us praise God for this wondrous act of love!

*HYMN

"Let us Break Bread Together" Red Hymnal No. 618, Vss. 1-3

*UNISON PRAYER

God of Love, we thank you for this night, in which we remember a "new commandment" to love one another. As we journey from the upper room, to the garden, to the cross, we discover what it means to love. On this night, and throughout all our days, help us to be people of love! Amen.

OFFERING

"Yes, I Will"

PraiseWorks Band

OPENING MEDITATION

On This Night

Pastor Monica

IN THE UPPER ROOM...

HYMN

"For the Bread Which you Have Broken" Red Hymnal No. 614, Vss. 1, 2

*GOSPEL READING

Mark 14:12-25

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most Merciful God, we confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us we pray. By your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial. (Silent Prayer)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

"Jesus, Messiah"

PraiseWorks Band

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this healing gift; and we pray that through it you would graciously strengthen us in faith toward you and in love toward one another. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE...

***GOSPEL READING**

Mark 14:26-42

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Into the Garden"

Chancel Choir

AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS...

***GOSPEL READING**

Mark 15:1-15

HYMN

"O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Red Hymnal No. 480, Vss. 1,4

MEDIATION

God's Love

Pastor Monica

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Were You There"

Red Hymnal No. 288, Vss. 1-3

***GOSPEL READING**

Mark 15:16-39

As we hear the words of the final scripture passage, we recall Jesus' death.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

As the altar is stripped, we recall the starkness of a life without Christ. As the service comes to an end, there is no benediction, no resolution, no sense of closure.

DEPARTURE

People Depart in Silence from Sanctuary

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**Maundy Thursday Great Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord is with you

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, creator of heaven and earth. From the earth you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You fed us manna in the wilderness, and gave grapes as evidence of the Promised Land. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Emptying himself, that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet, and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence.

Long ago the companions of Jesus went with him into Jerusalem. Among them were Thomas, a man given to grave doubts, Mary, a woman who longed for a happy ending, Peter, who had trouble facing himself, and Judas, whose bitterness about not being in charge was growing day by day.

Sensing danger everywhere, they listened anxiously as Jesus spoke about generosity, abundance, sorrow and love. In our times, we are still alert to danger, and as confused as they.

Jesus is as hard to understand now as then. We also waver and try to find a way out. Aware of our limits, and of Jesus' strength, we come to this table, knowing hard times are at hand and opening our hands to God, who gives us what we need in our times. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery of sin and death, and made us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night of Festival of Passover, Jesus gathered his disciples and friends, those who believed and those who doubted, those who were faithful and those who betrayed, those who longed to live out Jesus' kingdom and those could not see beyond the day. As they were gathered together, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to all gathered, and said

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the supper and the conversation, the laughter and the worry, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to all gathered, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, we as well gather and remember Jesus as those who are faithful and doubt, betray and believe, long and worry. We offer ourselves and lift our voice in the mystery of faith.

**Many: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. God our Maker, send your Spirit to pervade the bread we break. Let it bring the life we long for, and the love that we forsake. Bind us closer to each other, both forgiving and forgiven.

Grant us grace in this, and all things, to discern the hand of heaven.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry with all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

Let us join our voices together in the Lord's Prayer: