



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
Maundy Thursday
April 17, 2025 ~ Hybrid Worship

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight we remember the story of our faith grounded in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

We remember how the crowds had followed Jesus and celebrated his triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem, and how a few short days later, he gathered in seclusion, in an upper room with only a few close friends.

We remember how Jesus loved and cared for them, washing each one's feet, and how he taught them to love and care for one another.

We remember how Jesus celebrated his faith, enacting rituals and sharing a sacred meal with them.

Tonight we join Jesus as he neared the end of his earthly life, and we journey with him into that pain and sorrow.

We remember Jesus' life journey with light that fades into darkness—darkness that calls forth our deepest trust and hope.

*HYMN

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare Chalice Hymnal, No. 385

An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet, for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

(Gill Le Fevre, revised)

Merciful God, you see deep into our hearts and know us better than we know ourselves. In love you create us for love. In Jesus Christ you show us how to love. In the Spirit you empower us to love. Forgive us, we pray, for the ways we turn away from your love and withhold our compassion for others. For our impulses of anger and jealousy, scorn or spite, grant us your healing peace. For our resistance to forgiveness, generosity and mercy, inspire us with your compassionate love. For our impatience with all that remains unresolved, and our anguish over the evils that threaten to be our undoing, remind us that you are our God, our eternal protector and guide. Help us to place our trust in you. Amen.

Silence for personal reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Welcome now the abundant grace of God: in Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

Let God's love comfort and heal your soul.

Redeeming God, in you, we are always welcome and accepted, always forgiven and renewed. Draw us closer to you, today and always. Amen.

*HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul. (sing twice)

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 116:1-2; 10-14

The Inclusive Bible

I love you, Yahweh, for you have heard my cry for mercy.

You have listened to me; I will call on you all my days.

I believed even when I said, "I am completely crushed,"
and in despair said, "No one can be trusted."

How can I repay you, YHWH, for all your goodness to me?

I raise the cup of deliverance, and call on the Name of YHWH.

I will fulfill my vows to you in the presence of all your people.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

PRAYER (unison)

Loving God as we remember the story of Jesus, may we be bold to claim our own faith in this story. Help us be brave to journey into the darkness of this night, knowing that your love is greater than our deepest fears and your grace more healing than our worst hurts. Even in our solitude, surround us in the joy of communion with you and with the faithful of every generation, knowing there is nothing in life or death that can separate us from your love. Amen.

ANTHEM

God So Loved The World

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:3-8; 12-15

The Inclusive Bible

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was. The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus—knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God—rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist.

He then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel that was around his waist. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said "Rabbi, you're not going to wash my feet, are you?" Jesus answered, "You don't realize what I am doing right now, but later you'll understand." Peter replied, "You'll never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me."

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me "Teacher," and "Sovereign"— and rightly, for so I am. If I, then— your Teacher and Sovereign— have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

***HYMN**

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant
(verses 1-3)

Chalice Hymnal No. 490

Sister, let me be your servant, brother, let me walk with you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow trav'lers on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13: 33-35

The Inclusive Bible

Jesus said, "My little children, I won't be with you much longer. You'll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you: where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment: love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples; that you truly love one another." Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, that you truly love one another."

MEDITATION

"Water Ministry"

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

***HYMN**

In Remembrance Of Me

Chalice Hymnal, No. 403

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbor in, let them in.

Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too.
That this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love.
In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart look for God.
Do this in remembrance of me.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them to God.*

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

All: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

One: We give you thanks loving God for the gift of your creation, and the gift of Jesus Christ. We remember the events of this holy week in his life and in our lives. As the week began the people were filled with excitement, hope and expectation. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a humble donkey. Crowds of people followed him singing and shouting:

**All: *Holy, holy, holy
God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God most high.
Blessed is One who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest!***

One: Soon the excitement turned to confusion and fear. The disciples believed this was the one who had come to fulfill the scriptures: to preach a message of hope, to proclaim release to the captives and liberty to those who are oppressed, and to announce a time of God's salvation near at hand. But this message was threatening to some. And they sought to put an end to it. Even as his own life was threatened, Jesus chose to gather with friends to celebrate the Passover Feast. He taught them how to pray, saying,

PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)

***Our Loving God 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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As he shared the ritual meal, he offered himself fully to the moment to make a memory, and find a way to continue his ministry into the future even beyond his own life. He took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread and said “Take and eat; this is my body, the bread of life which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

And when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said, “Drink from this all of you, this is the cup of the new covenant, the cup of blessing and new life shared with you and with many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Raising our hands in the ancient posture of blessing, we pray:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered and on this bread and juice, these gifts of love we share. Grant that by these gifts we will be one body in Christ, support each other in our times of trial and proclaim the hope of God’s eternal love grace. Amen.

Come let us serve one another in remembrance.

MUSICAL MEDITATION (during hand washing and communion)

HAND WASHING

You may choose to come to one of the stations to offer your hands to be washed with water.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup at the table, placing the empty cup in the basket. Let the servers know if you need a gluten free option or would like to be served from your seat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Gracious God, on this night we remember how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, showing us how to live a new commandment—to love one another. On this night we remember how Jesus shared of himself in community and love, showing us how to live for one another as one body. We pray that we might remember and be moved to proclaim your love in living our lives, in serving one another, and in enacting justice in the world. May we go out in your love, to love one another. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION (*stripping the altar*)

SCRIPTURE READING from John 18-19

After dinner, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus prayed. Then the soldiers came, and they arrested Jesus. They took him to the Council, and to the Governor's palace, where they tried to make it look like a trial—but it was not. Then finally, they led him away to what was called The Place of the Skull, Golgotha. There, they put him to death, hanging him on a cross between two other crosses, criminals on each side. On the cross, the sign over his head said, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother and some other women he had known well. When he saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved, there in front of him, Jesus said to her, "Take this son in my place... And to him, he said, "Take good care of my mother." Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HYMN

Were You There

Chalice Hymnal, No. 198

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 laid him in the tomb?...

CANDLE LIGHT

Tonight, in the dark of this night, we light a candle in memory of Jesus. We remember him, and we keep vigil like the women who kept watch that night until the early morning of the first day of the week when they would return.

MOMENT OF SILENT REVERENCE

Please leave the sanctuary quietly when you are ready. You may remain as long as you wish.

Welcome to Rockville United Church!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this evening. We trust that you will find RUC to be a welcoming and engaging place to explore the life of faith within a community that honors each person's spiritual journey. We encourage you to ask questions, visit our website, and share your contact information at the welcome table near the front doors. I hope to greet you personally following worship, and invite you to contact me.

Blessings,
Rev. Jennifer Knutsen
jennifer@rockvilleunitedchurch.org

Our complimentary Wi-Fi network is **RUC Mesh**. The password is **heavenly**.



Please Scan Me To Give To RUC.



Rockville United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851
301-424-6733 ~ www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org
(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light