

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6th, 2023 | 7 p.m.

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.



Cara B. Hochhalter, *Maundy Thursday Foot-Washing*.

restoration through the bold declaration of pardon; remembrance of the act of footwashing; the celebration of the Lord's Supper embodying the mystery of Christ's enduring redemptive presence.

Maundy Thursday's acts provide the paradox of a celebratively somber and solemnly celebrative service.

The final act of this service is the stripping of the worship space. The stark, bare, unadorned church reflects Jesus' abandonment during the night in Gethsemane. The church remains bare until the Easter when the process is reversed and the worship space is dressed again.

Maundy Thursday begins the Three Days (or Triduum), remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

The name is taken from the first words sung at the ceremony of the washing of the feet, "I give you a new commandment" (John 13:34); also from the commandment of Christ that we should imitate his loving humility in the washing of the feet (John 13:14-17). The term *mandatum* (maundy), therefore, was applied to the rite of the footwashing on this day.

The opening service of the Triduum is not inherently mournful. The penitential acts of Maundy Thursday have celebratory aspects as well:

PRELUDE

"Song of Peace"

Jean Langlais

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

In the waning light of the evening
we gather to keep watch.
In this space and in our hearts
we gather to retell this story.
In the bread and in the cup,
we remember the love of our Redeemer.

HYMN 202

“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”

O WALY WALY

LOVE

LESSON

John 13:1-15, 34-35

pew Bible, New Testament page 107/large print, New Testament page 131

MEDITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Humble Savior, your words were clear:
“love one another, just as I have loved you.”
You have loved us unfailingly, unceasingly,
and we have rejoiced in that love.
Yet we have not poured out on others the love that you have lavished on us.
Forgive us.
We have not made room at our tables and in our hearts for everyone.
Forgive us.
We have not taken the risk of being vulnerable that true community requires.
Forgive us,
and lead us once again in your ways.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM

Maurice Duruflé

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur. Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.

–Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

REMEMBER

LESSON

Mark 14:22-31

pew Bible, New Testament page 52/large print, New Testament page 63

MEDITATION

ANTHEM

Maurice Duruflé

Tantum ergo sacramentum veneremur cernui: et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui: præstet fides supplementum sensuum defectui. Genitori, genitoque laus et jubilatio, salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio: procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Therefore, so great a sacrament; let us worship with bowed heads. Let the ancient practice give way to the new rite. Let faith supply a substitute for the failure of the senses. To the begetter and the begotten be praise and jubilation. Hail, honor, virtue also, and blessing. To the one proceeding from both, let there be equal praise. Amen.
—St. Thomas Aquinas

COMMUNION

communion liturgy was adapted from one written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

INVITATION

Friends, why have you come?

To taste and see that the Lord is good.

Whom do you seek?

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, our host and guest.

Who may gather at this table?

The Lord invites everyone; no one is turned away.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

The congregation is invited to come forward to the communion table by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. At the table, juice, bread (please tell your server if you need gluten free bread), will be distributed. If you prefer self-contained bread and juice, those are also available at the table.

ANTHEM

arr. Melva Wilson Costen

The text may be found at Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal, 525.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In this is love:

not that we loved God because we tried and failed

but that God first loved us

always loved us

loved us

with the gentleness that washes our feet

with the generosity that feeds our souls

with the strength that endures suffering

with the peace that forgives

with the power that shapes us

into echoes of that great Love.

In this is love:

that by God's love, we too might love, however imperfectly.

That we might see a world where all are gathered together to eat,

to rejoice, and to remember

that Love is the first rule of our life together,

that we are all children together,

filled with God's breath, and held in God's heart.

Amen.

STAY

LESSON

Mark 14:32-42
pew Bible, New Testament page 52/large print, New Testament page 63

MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN 206

“This Is the Night”

MY NEIGHBOR

Please stand in body or spirit.

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH: PSALM 22:1-2, 7-8, 14-21

Peter Hallock

As the Psalm is chanted, the linens, paraments, and tableware are removed from the Church in preparation for Good Friday.

Following worship, you are invited to remain for quiet meditation, or depart in silence.

Worship continues tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. with Good Friday.
Through word, music, and silence, we hear and reflect on the Gospel writers’ witness to the last words Jesus spoke at the time of his crucifixion.

LEADING TONIGHT

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*
Ann Timmons, *Lay Reader*

The First Church Choir Octet
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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