

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR & VERONA



April 9, 2020 +++ Maundy Thursday +++ 7:30 PM

UMH - *United Methodist Hymnal*
Bolded text - said in unison by all.

Gathering

Greeting

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

All: Christ has prepared a feast of love.

Opening Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

UMH 432

[Refrain] Jesu, Jesu,
 fill us with your love,

show us how to serve
 the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.
[Refrain]

2. Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away.
[Refrain]

3. These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.
[Refrain]

4. Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.
[Refrain]

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Loving Christ, on this night of remembrance, we remember your loving gift of life, and we celebrate your presence amongst us. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may sense your presence and bathe in your grace. Send your Holy Spirit on the sacred gifts of bread, wine, water, and towel, that they may become for us your living presence, full of mercy and grace. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

Confession and Pardon

Pastor: My sisters and brothers, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

All: Most merciful God, we your Church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray: and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession...)

Pastor: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor: Gracious God, your Anointed One, on the night before he suffered, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood. Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life.

All: Amen.

Gospel Lesson

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." 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? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him... If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sermon

"The Hands of Jesus"

Rev. Earl Kim

Script can be found on the last two pages.

Responsive Hymn

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

UMH 273

1. Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.
2. Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Love Feast for Sheltering in Place

One: We have been asked to shelter in place to keep one another safe.

All: For us this is an act of communal grace.

One: The Lord has not left us, nor forsaken us.

All: In Divine Love we are held securely.

One: We are not alone.

All: We are still together united by our prayers and our witness of hope before the world.

One: You are the one who has loved each one of us from before the world began. Even now we are all being held in the security of loving arms. You are attentive to our everyday prayer and through these prayers you have knitted us together. You are aware of our needs before they revealed at our horizon and have begun to act before we know to cry out. Keep us attentive to the needs around us, so you might illuminate your gracious presence through our acts of kindness. Amen.

As we join together as a community of faith with whom Christ is present, we set symbols on our table to remind us of his promises to us: A candle to remind us of the way, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Bread, symbol to remind us of God's love, "I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world." A cup, representing the cup of salvation. Through this, we remember Jesus' love that is poured out for all of us.

All: God, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence. With us now, and at all times and places. Amen.

One: As you break bread and drink of these cups, and let us be reminded that God loves you...God loves all of us.

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Be present at our table, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored; thy creatures bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with Thee. Amen.

All: Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power, which saves us to the utter most, till we can sin no more. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain, and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

Eat your bread and cup.

One: May the Lord bless you wherever you are. May you find comfort in the eternal love of God who was and is and is to come. May the hope you embrace be the hope you share, until we see each other's face. Amen.

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross;
 there a precious fountain,
 free to all, a healing stream,
 flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross,
 be my glory ever,
 till my raptured soul shall find
 rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,
 love and mercy found me;
 there the bright and morning star

sheds its beams around me.
 [Refrain]

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
 bring its scenes before me;
 help me walk from day to day
 with its shadow o'er me.
 [Refrain]

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
 hoping, trusting ever,
 till I reach the golden strand
 just beyond the river.
 [Refrain]

Stripping of the Altar

*This action enacts the desolation and abandonment of
 the long night in Gethsemane and what followed.*

Dismissal with Blessing

Good Friday service will be streamed tomorrow at 7:30pm.

Sermon: "The Hands of Jesus"

Jesus knew "that the Father had given all things into his hands" when washing the disciples' feet and feeding them with bread and wine on the day we call Maundy Thursday (John 13:3). With his hands holding "all things" given by God, Jesus brought a basin and water to the room, took off his outer robe, tied a towel around himself, poured water into the basin, cleansed the disciples' feet one by one, and dried them with the towel (John 13:4-5). It must have taken a while to clean them all. At the same night, after washing their feet, Jesus broke and shared the bread and poured the wine into the disciples' cups. He served them once again with his hands.

This Holy Week, I've been reflecting on those hands of Jesus, the hands into which God gave all things. All things...what's included in that all things? The earthly power? If that was in his hand, why didn't he give some of his power to his disciples. Then, he could turn the world upside down with those hands. Then, how about heavenly authority? Was it included in that all things? If that was in his hand, why didn't Jesus share that divine authority with the disciples? Then, he could make everyone bow down before him.

Yes, we may ask. But we know he chose not to do such things. Rather, among the "all things" that God gave in his hands, the only thing Jesus took that night was love. He shared God's love with his disciples by serving them. He shared the life-giving love that saves others, the humble love that serves others. The disciples might have wanted power and authority from Jesus. But on the night, shortly before he was handed over to the soldiers, Jesus handed his disciples love—the way of new life, new kingdom. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). On the night he loved the disciples to the end and taught them this new commandment not just by his words only but also with his hands. With his humble hands, he taught them: power and authority are not the answers for this broken world, but love is.

Faithful friends in Christ, with the same love he poured out onto his disciples that night, Jesus loves us tonight. With the humble hands that he washed the disciples' feet on that night,

Jesus touches us to heal us, washes us to forgive our sins, lifts us up from our fear and despair tonight. With his saving hands nailed and broken on the cross for us, he hands a new life to us tonight.

Thinking of his hands, from tonight and on, let's make our hands be Christ-like hands. Let us give Jesus our hands so that we can work through our hands. I know many of you continue to serve others in the middle of this crisis. I know, you care for the sick in hospitals and healthcare centers, still go to work and do your essential work for our communities, bring bags of groceries to the needy, make masks and donate them, cook, pack, and deliver many cups of soup to feed the hungry, call someone to share words of encouragement, pray for one another, send your love to others through emails, texts, and social media, make meaningful worship services by playing music and delivering messages, by streaming it and sharing it, manage the church administration by having Zoom meetings and by sharing creative ways to be church.

In the midst of this crisis, I hope and pray that your hands continue to do all these beautiful works of faith and carry the love of Jesus to others. Your Christ-like hands will satisfy the needs of neighbors, sanitize our ill world, and make the broken humanity whole. For all our works of piety and works of mercy, tonight, let us hold Jesus' hands in our prayer. And in our prayer, let us bring our lives to his wounded and sacred hands; let his humble hands hold us, guide us, and save us; and let his loving Spirit be ever present within our lives. Amen.