

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR & VERONA



April 1, 2021 +++ Maundy Thursday +++ 7:30 PM

UMH - *United Methodist Hymnal*

Bolded text - said in unison by all

Gathering

Call to Worship

Pastor: We are Jesus' disciples, following him even as he moves toward the cross.

All: Even as he wraps a towel around his waist.

Even as he kneels to wash the filth from the feet of his friends.

Pastor: We are Jesus' disciples, longing to be faithful even as the night grows dark.

All: Even as betrayers loom.

Even as the powers that oppose the way of Christ press in around us.

Pastor: We are Jesus' disciples, struggling to love others even as Jesus loved us.

All: We are Jesus' disciples, gathered here to worship God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.

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: Holy God, source and sovereign, you put all power and authority into the hands of Christ - Christ, who washes our feet in humble service. Teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us, so that everyone will know that we are his disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus—Savior and Lord—who at his last meal with his disciples gave them—and us that new commandment: "...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." Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak ... when we have failed to serve as Jesus served;

All: Forgive us.

Pastor: When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us;

All: Forgive us.

Pastor: When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions;

All: Forgive us. Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Pausing for Silent Prayer...)

Word of Assurance

Pastor: Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor: Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Gospel Lesson

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Rob Lester

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

"Example to Follow"

Rev. Myungim Kim

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 word.

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 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.

Closing Hymn

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

UMH 301

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

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 Shed His beams around me.

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

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

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

4. Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river.

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

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 7:30 pm.