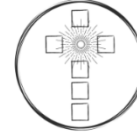




## WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? Maundy Thursday



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

### *Maundy Thursday*

#### **Prelude**

#### *Lamb of God*

**Gathering**—The disciples were aghast at the topsy-turvy way that Jesus kept upending the status quo. That night in the upper room was no different. Jesus got up and radically changed the hierarchical structure of that gathering by showing how the first can be last and the last can be first. The hierarchy of our day can be disrupted if we but follow Jesus in this final act of table hospitality that invites us to get up out of our own position in order to serve and lift up others.

*Lenten Chorus: “You Raise Me Up”*

**When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence  
Until You come and sit awhile with me**

**CHORUS: You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be**

**There is no life, no life without its hunger.  
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly.  
But when you come, and I am filled with wonder,  
Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity. (CHORUS)**

**Prayer**— Holy God, Companion in the Room, we enter the space where the story begins. As evening extinguishes daylight, we begin the task of remembering the story. Our minds race as we place ourselves around the table with Christ. Our souls become quieter as the bread is broken and the cup is poured. May we recall tonight’s story as one that has drawn us together over time. May the readings and

rituals bless our heavy hearts worn down by this world. Heal us with each word, each sense, each breath...+

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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.

**\*\*Hymn**

*The Church's One Foundation, 544*

**We Hear God's Word**—*John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (NRSV)*

*Collin Bennington, Michelle Van Dyke, and Pastor Sarah*

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Holy One. 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 Abba 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.”

## **Hand Washing Ritual**

*Panis Angelicus*

Our scripture reminds us that up until the very end, Jesus found ways to serve and to love. Jesus was getting up to something good, even for those who would betray him and deny him. All this Lent, with God’s help, we’ve been trying to get up to something good, loving and serving just like Jesus did. Tonight, much as Jesus did, we offer to you a moment of renewal, of washing away the dust of the world, of care because this Lent you’ve been up to something good. In a few moments, you’ll be invited to come forward for a handwashing ritual that your hands might be blessed so they can continue the work Christ began.

*“In our world today, our hands are used to care for us and others, prepare food, extend a greeting, and work – whether laboring in the fields, manufacturing items, or administration. Our work provides for others and ourselves, extending the love of Christ in our world.”+*

When you come forward, water will be poured over your hands so that you can wash your hands clean. You can take one of the towels provided to dry your hands, and you are welcome to take that towel with you. Let it represent for you the extension of love to be passed from Christ to us and then to our neighbors. Let it remind you, whenever you use it, to get up to something good.

For those worshipping with us online, you’re invited now, too, to go find cleansing waters as you join us in washing your hands.

**A Blessing for the Washing of Hands**—With clean hands lifted up, let us receive this blessing for our hands:

God of Blessings,  
Like water, your grace flows freely over us,

Releasing the shame of the past,  
Refreshing us for the future.  
Such restoration is a balm to our spirits.  
May these hands be a conduit of your love into the world.  
May they build systems and spaces of care.  
May they deliver words of kindness across the virtual universe,  
And may they provide the necessities to our neighbors in need.

Allow the bounty of your blessings which passes through our hands  
To alleviate heartbreak and illuminate beauty  
As we wander throughout your kin-dom.  
Amen.+

**A Poem**

*“Friends Meeting” by Michael Moynahan*

Friends meeting one final time in life as he knew it. The thought of things presently to come weighing heavily on his heart. And others seeing no more nor less than what wine-dulled sense can glean from appearances: something they had done with predicted regularity long before this momentous time	arrived. Gathered with friends, celebrating that passing-over event. My how time flies a good time! Minutes ticking past. Too fast! Too little time left! Three years walking, talking, teaching, reaching out in hope and calling forth the good in each: healing for the seasoned cynic in us all. So now it comes down to this:	leave-taking. What to say? What to do? So much to say, So much to do. All poured into this last parting gesture: a sign, a prayer. Relying on memory’s gift and what a transformed meal can possibly recall celebrated miles and years from here and now with people gathered in his name.
---	--	--

**Special Music**

*A Place at the Table*, 617, v. 1, 2, 3, 5, Collin Bennington

## **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**—Friends, we are blessed to be able to serve and enrich our community, to be given opportunities to get up to something good through our ministry here at Zion United Church of Christ. What a wondrous calling we've been given to extend God's love. Tonight, we share the gifts of our resources, our time, our talent, and our very lives that we might continue the work Christ began.

**March Benevolence**—One Great Hour of Sharing

### **\*\*Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—[God, with gratitude, we bring our gifts to you this night. Through them,] may we live into the command of Christ: love one another as Christ loved us. Through our actions, our faith comes alive and our neighbors experience Divine love in new ways. Amen.+

## **We Gather at the Table**

**Set Your Place at the Table**—Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

### **Hymn**

*One Bread, One Body, 689*

**Our Invitation**—The table is set. God's grace is freely given. Let your approach to the table be the assurance you need, no matter where you are on this journey of grace. Jesus fed all. Jesus invited all. Even those who betrayed him. And that is the most upending, radical, bold grace of all. This is ultimately that which lifts us up and invites us to lift up others as well. Come to the table.

**A Prayer for Transformation**—Holy Deliverer, tonight, we have reached the all-too-familiar story of the eve before the execution. While there are times when we relate very well to Jesus in this story, we forget that we have been Judas, Peter, and the disciples. We have allowed ourselves to become part of someone's story of pain. Our words have pierced another's hearts. We

have betrayed our neighbor instead of filling this world and another's soul with love. Instead of living with the heaviness of guilt, allow us to create peace around us and within us. Invite us to share our repentance and to reconcile whenever possible. May we live into the mandate to love one another as you love us. Amen.+

**Assurance of Grace**—Through the redeeming love of Christ, God has poured grace upon us. May the mercy of God transform us into bearers of love in a wounded world. Amen.+

**The Words of Institution**—On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, 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 of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God's love...

**Blessing Our Meal**—Holy Spirit, Winds of Healing, encircle these elements tonight. Surround us with your care, mend the wounds from betrayals, and allow this meal to soothe our heavy hearts.

This is the sacramental meal of Christ for all God's children. No matter where you are on the path of life, each of you are welcome at this table.

**We Share the Bread and the Cup**—Take now and eat, this is the body of Christ broken for you. Take now and drink, this is the cup of the renewed covenant, Christ's blood given for you.

**We Give Thanks**—Holy One, with gratitude, we celebrate this space and time with your children. With thanksgiving, we remember Jesus the Christ, the one who shared light with the world, even when the shadows lengthened. Give us strength to reenter this world sharing love and grace to our neighbors around us. Amen.

**Benediction**—As we head into the night, may we commune with God our fears and frustrations. May we reach out to our neighbors as we yearn to settle our souls. May we know the strength of the Holy Spirit as we endure moments of trial and moments of joy. Amen.+

**Postlude**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*