



The Scrovegni Chapel. Fresco By Giotto, 14 Th Century.

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word “mandatum” which means “commandment.” It refers to the commandment that Jesus gave the disciples when he met with them in the Upper Room to celebrate His Last Supper. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you.” Jesus then got up from the table and demonstrated His love by washing the disciples feet. His act of grace and love is in sharp contrast to the betrayal of Jesus that followed later that same night. Let us serve one another with grace and love as we follow Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

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First Presbyterian Church of Tifton

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 17, 2025 6:00 p.m.

A SERVICE ON THE PASSION OF CHRIST

The Last Supper

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Luke 22:14-16

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Through Jesus, God has offered us eternal freedom, redemption and new life. Let us worship the Lord. Amen.

The Invocatory Prayer

Dr. William D. Coker

***Blue Hymnal #92**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Litany of Confession

Leader: Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we have failed to fulfill your will.

People: *We betray our neighbors, desert our friends, and run away just as the disciples did.*

Leader: Though you have loved us, we have failed to love you.

People: *God have mercy on us and grant us forgiveness.*

Leader: May Christ, who is the Bread of life and the Vine from which we grow, be the center of our lives. Lord, hear us now as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

This is the mystery of the Gospels: even as Jesus was betrayed by Judas, even as he was denied by Peter, even as he was deserted by all whom he called 'friend', he prepared himself for the redemption of the world. Though we have all sinned and fallen far short of the Glory of God, the Good News of the Scriptures is that Christ died for all of our sins that we may have eternal life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

First Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:26-30

Marlene Mathis

Leader: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

People: *Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."*

Leader: He said, "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

People: *Jesus said, "I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."*

Leader: When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Blue Hymnal #101

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The Betrayal

Second Scripture Reading (Unison) - Mark 14:17-21

Jane Bennett

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me - one who is eating with me." They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?" "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

The Offering of Thanksgiving

Leader: Maundy Thursday is a night when we remember the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

People: *Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use in giving, it will be measured to you."*

Leader: Because God has been gracious to us,

People: *We generously give our offerings of thanksgiving.*

Leader: Let us present our gifts with the love of Jesus in our hearts. Amen.

Offertory

Frank Bowyer

Draw Me Close

Draw me close to You, Never let me go, I lay it all down again, To hear You say that I'm Your friend
You are my desire, No one else will do, 'Cause nothing else can take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace, Help me find the way, bring me back to You

Chorus

You're all I want, You're all I've ever needed, You're all I want, Help me know You are near

The Crucifixion

Third Scripture Reading - Luke 23:26-46

Nancy Marshall

Blue Hymnal #98

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

The Preparatory Prayer (Unison)

Almighty God, we thank you for Jesus, who was punished for our sins and suffered for our salvation. We praise you for your grace, for mercy undeserved, and for the love you have poured out upon us. Fill us with gratitude, O God, and a genuine desire to serve you, as we take up our crosses, and follow in the way of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table (Responsive)

Leader: On Thursday evening Jesus gathered with his disciples in the Upper Room. He washed the disciples feet and spoke with them of many things. He said, *"I am the Vine, you are the branches."*

People: *Lord, send your Holy Spirit upon us now as we prepare to celebrate the Holy Supper you gave us.*

Leader: The whole purpose of gathering in the Upper Room was to celebrate the Passover, replace the Old Covenant from Mount Sinai, and begin the New Covenant with a ceremony that would help them and us to never forget his sacrifice.

People: *The grace of God and the forgiveness of sins that comes to us through Jesus represents the New Covenant.*

Leader: Jesus' body and blood were given as the sign and seal of the New Covenant.

People: *Lord, we thank you for your abundant grace and mercy. We are lost sinners in need of your forgiveness.*

Leader: Jesus and the disciples gathered around the table. The Passover meal that he had desired to eat with them began.

People: *Lord, you call us to remember you; You call us to love one another; You call us to believe. Give us faith to be the humble servants you've asked us to become.*

Leader: Now the sign is finished. That which it had prefigured since the days of Moses had come. The lamb had served God's purposes; now *the* Lamb would do God's will.

All: *Lord, the time has come. Draw us close to you and to one another as we participate in this Holy Sacrament. Amen.*

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

You will have pre-packed elements. Follow the pastor's lead.

Prayer of Thanksgiving - 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.

Call of Discipleship

John 13:34-35

Jesus said, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

A Moment of Silence

***Blue Hymnal #102**

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

***The Benediction**

The Lord was crucified for us. His death was painful and cruel. As we remember his sacrifice, let us fulfill his New Commandment and love one another as he loved us. With sorrow in our hearts, let us leave this Sanctuary in silence and darkness. Amen.

The congregation will depart in silence and darkness