

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

April 17, 2014

Organist – Virginia Tobias

Pianist – Lois Haldeman

Red Hymnal

PRELUDE *“Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed”*

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader - Tonight, soon, we will gather around this table to remember the night that Jesus took and blessed and shared the bread and the cup which became the first communion meal. This is a small table, large enough for twelve to crowd around.

People - But the table of our Lord Jesus Christ is a large table, so large that there is room for everyone!

Leader - Gathered around this table we are family, sisters and brothers of Christ, the ones for whom Jesus gave his life. When you stand at this table, don't look down at the elements, look across that table, look around that table and see the people of God gathered with you!

People - We will share the bread and drink the cup, we will remember who we are – the family of God, we will remember whose we are – the followers of Christ, we will celebrate and we will go forth to serve!

HYMN “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” no. 253

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, we have gathered to hear your command that we love you with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds and all our strength. Remind us again that you demand all of us, not just a part of us. So as we begin our worship and our reflection on the meaning of your commandments; show us how to give ourselves in purity of heart, with the longing of our souls, using the rational faculties of our minds and the earnestness of our strength. Let us then take the further step that we might truly love our neighbors as we do ourselves. AMEN.

GATHERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *“O Divine Redeemer”*

Offertory Response *“The Doxology”*

OLD TESTAMENT Job 38:1-15

CHOIR ANTHEM *“This Bread, This Cup”*

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 22:34-40

MESSAGE

HYMN “Were You There” (vs. 1 & 2 only) no. 223

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, as you wept over Jerusalem, you weep over our world, our cities and our lives. Your call is that we live in harmony with one another; but we insist on our own ways. In our stubbornness we distance ourselves from each other, from you and from your love.

Forgive us and remove from us all stubbornness and envy, anger and bitterness that we might draw nearer to you and to the doing of your will. AMEN.

***COMMUNION LITURGYno. 27-29**

*Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabbaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of The Lord,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!*

***PRAYER OF BLESSING**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

HYMN “The Old Rugged Cross” gold no. 256

POSTLUDE

Communion will be served around the table in the front of the Sanctuary with five people on each side and one person at each end. You will be invited to come forward in groups of 12. Those who approach the table first are asked to come around and stand on the Altar side and then the others are asked to fill in around the rest of the table.

PEACE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Maundy Thursday
April 17, 2014