

**MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**

**April 2, 2015**

**Organist – Virginia Tobias**

**Pianist – Lois Haldeman**

Red Hymnal

PRELUDE *“Calvary Medley”*

**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. 241**

**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 *“Just As I Am”*

Offertory Response *“The Doxology”*

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

CHOIR ANTHEM *“God So Loved the World”*

GOSPEL LESSON John 18:12-18; 25-27

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN (vs. 1 & 2 only) no. 223**  
**“Were You There When they Crucified My Lord”**

**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 LITURGY (Sanctus no. 364).....no. 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 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” no. 239**

**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 2, 2015**