





**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021**

Worship Online at 6:00pm

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

In our lives this week, we turned away from your triumphal entry. The words in our heads and on our lips have been: "Can't," "Won't," "Never," "Impossible". God of grace, we long to be dear disciples, washing each other's feet. We long to be faithful companions, awake in the darkest hour. We long to follow in your footsteps, even if they lead to crosses on a barren hillside. These are the desires of our hearts. Help us to be your hands and feet in this world. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Picardy

CALL TO WORSHIP

It was the first night of Passover, and Jesus and the disciples ate together and remembered.

They gave thanks to God as they kindled the festival lights praying, "We praise you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this season."

As we kindle the lights, we pray for the light of God in our midst that we might see anew the meaning and significance of this celebration.

Living our story that is told for all peoples, whose shining conclusion has begun, but has yet to fully unfold, we gather to remember.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall

observe it as a perpetual ordinance....You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread, for on this very day I brought your companies out of the land of Egypt: you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a perpetual ordinance.”

Let us praise the Lord our God, who gave us this joyful heritage and who sanctifies both us and this celebration.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Miracles, believing our problems are too deep for you, we have underestimated your power and stewed in our own misery. We confess our independence and self-reliance.

God of Love, too often we pray only for ourselves and our own needs. In spite of ourselves, you walk a road straight to the heart of us. You heal us, help us, hold us. We gobble your comfort greedily and run away, never returning to say “Thank you”. Help us to be thankful for your presence in our lives.

God of Mercy, you place people in our road who are in desperate need of your good news, and we have walked by on the other side, or we’ve said, “I’ll help them tomorrow, when I have more time or more money or more something.” We repent of our hardheartedness.

Let us consider the cost of sin, and the contemplate some of the modern plagues that exist in our world.

The ancient Rabbis taught: “The sword comes into the world because of justice delayed and justice denied. God is urgent about justice, for upon justice the world depends.”

We contemplate economic injustice, and the evils of unemployment and poverty.

Tonight we affirm that even the poorest among us deserve both dignity and the fulfillment of basic human needs, including shelter and food.

We contemplate the ravages of physical violence. Even here in our own country people are murdered on the streets and spouses and children live under the threat of domestic violence.

Tonight we affirm that people everywhere deserve to live in a safe and healthy environment, free from physical violence of all kinds.

We contemplate the evils of intolerance and prejudice, greed, alienation and abuse, and self-centered decision-making. We

lament the afflictions of cancer, Parkinson's, Covid-19, Alzheimer's, heart disease and other life-threatening illnesses.

Tonight we give thanks for those who risk and sacrifice to care for others.

God has given humanity a unique gift: freedom of choice, the freedom to create a better world.

We cannot merely cry out to God to end violence, prejudice, despair, and disease. We must act to make our community stronger.

An ancient legend tells us that when the children of Israel came to the edge of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's armies in pursuit, the waters refused to part. It was not until the first Israelites had stepped into the Sea and the waters reached their necks that the Sea parted.

Just as the children of Israel learned that redemption cannot come until the first step is taken, we too acknowledge that we must take the first step in building God's beloved community, where God's Will is done.

(Silence is kept.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-13

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

John 13:12-17

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Rebecca Luter

"Do You Understand What I Have Done for You?"

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

....We call out to you, forever praising your steadfast love and glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

....Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

O Lord our God, we rise from this table having received a love beyond our deserving. Thank you for giving us a place at your table; for serving us the bread of life; for offering to us, even to us, the cup of salvation. In humility and hope, we remember that for Jesus no rest would come this night or tomorrow. Yet, in forgiveness and loving servanthood, he is with us always: the light shining in the darkness. Amen.

BENEDICTION

This service continues tomorrow at 6:00pm.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

*Prayers and Preparation and Confession were adapted from the words of Carol Penner, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/>

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Participating in the service today:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education
Jim Thrash, Director of Music
Tom Bryant, Accompanist
Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Liturgist
Chancel Choir



THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE-STREAMED
AND RECORDED. ATTENDEES
IMPLICITLY AGREE THAT THEY, AND
ANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING
THEM, MAY BE ON CAMERA.

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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