



STAL

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God.

On the cover:

Le Breton, Jacques; Gaudin, Jean. Christ washes the feet of the Apostles, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Original source\: image donated by Jim Womack and Anne Richardson. *PRELUDE

Communion Prayer

Michael Mazzatenta

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

On this day, Christ, the Lamb of God, gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

On this day, Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

On this day, Christ took a towel and washed his disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he had done for us.

On this day, Christ, our God, gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment on our hearts; give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 203

Psalm 51:10

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You call us to be your voices in this world and we stay silent. You call us to be your hands in this world and we keep them hidden. You call us to be your feet in this world and we go our own way. When we meet those who are doubting and say nothing, forgive us. When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us. When we are called to take up your cross and carry nothing, forgive us. Breathe life into these bones: bring freedom to these lives that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God.

(Silent confession)

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a right spirit within me. **Renew a right spirit within me.**

Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected. TEXT: Tom Colvin, 1969; MU-SIC: Ghanaian folk melody; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism.)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

***The Peace**

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

(Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Hear the Word of God! Our ears are open.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

(New Testament, page 173 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Psalm 116 In the Land of the Living

Phillip W.J. Stopford

I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me, by grief and sorrow was I held. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul!"

About In the Land of the Living

This powerful and stirring setting of Psalm 116 by British church musician and composer, Phillip Stopford, features soaring vocal lines and a reflective accompaniment. Stopford (b. 1977) continues to compose prolifically for choirs and his anthems have become some of the most popular written for sacred worship and concert today.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord watches over the simple; I was brought very low and he saved me. Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been gracious to you.

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. For you have delivered my soul from death, delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling... in the land of the living.

John 13:1-7, 31b-35

(New Testament, pages 107 and 108 your pew Bible)

*SERMON

"Love As I Love"

Stephanie Boaz

(A moment of silence)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe that at the Lord's Supper the community of believers is renewed by the memory of Christ's life and death, by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the promise of his coming again. Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread.

He offers us his body broken for our sake, and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We accept his promises and gifts, and depend on his life to sustain ours.

In turn, we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord, who has conquered death. So we celebrate his victory here and now, and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom. Reunited around one loaf and cup, we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.

(From A Declaration of Faith)

THE EUCHARIST

*PREPARATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE *INVITATION *GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

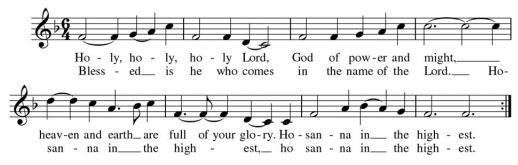
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... calling us again to turn to your ways.

Therefore we praise you,

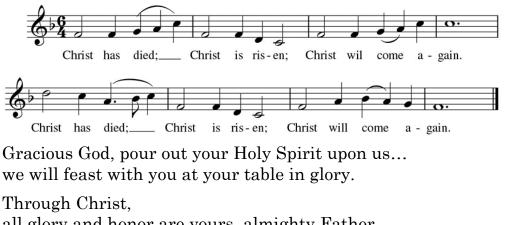
joining our voices with the celestial choirs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



(The congregation may be seated.)

You are holy, O God of majesty... that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:



all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER (Prayed in unison)

(Please see page 35 of your hymnal for the words to this prayer.)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The people will move to the Communion stations as directed by the ushers. The celebrant will give each worshiper the bread. The worshiper dips the bread in the cup and partakes. An appropriate response is "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." Please return to the pews, using the side aisles.)

Music during Communion

Anthem	Ubi Carita	s Victor Johnson	с С Т
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus	ibi est.	Where there is charity and love, God is there.	r a
Congregavit nos in unum		The love of Christ has gathered us together.	f
Exsultemus et in ipso juci	ındemur.	Let us rejoice and be glad in it.	r
Et ex corde diligamus nos	sincero.	And from a sincere heart let us love one another.	t 1 t
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus	ibi est.	Where there is charity and love, God is there.	r t

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN 202 An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare O WALY WALY

STRIPPING OF THE CHANCEL

(The final act of this service is the stripping of the Chancel. The stark, unadorned church reflects Jesus' abandonment during the night in the Garden of Gethsemane. As we depart the Sanctuary this evening in silence, we move from the celebration of the Lord's Supper to the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Symbolically, Jesus Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.)

CHARGE

Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Go in peace.

(Please depart the Sanctuary in silence.)

*(Those who are able may stand.)

Ubi caritas is a hvmn of the Western Church, long used as one of the responses for the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday. Its text is attributed to Paulinus of Aquileia in 796. The Gregorian chant melody longassociated with it probably also stems from the late 8th century. Contemporary composer and music educator, Victor Johnson (b. 1978), composed this new, original musical setting for the text.

About Hymn 202

This text brings together the two New Testament traditions regarding Jesus' final evening with his disciples: the Synoptic account of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-29 / Mark 14:22-25 / Luke 22:14-20) and the Fourth Gospel's report of his washing the disciples' feet (John 13:3-17) Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1973; MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. John Weaver, 1988.

OUR MISSION

Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

TONIGHT@ WESTMINSTER

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Stephanie Boaz Parish Associate

Liturgist

Rev. Dr. Guy D. Griffith Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture

Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care*

Communion Preparation

Maggie Lucy and Alyson Thomas

Music

Tintinnabulation Laudate Youth Choir

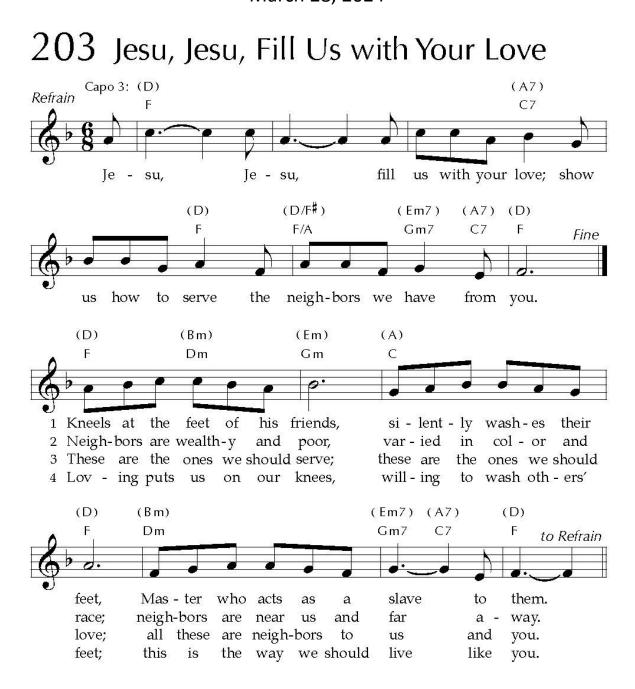
Dr. John Semingson Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries

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About Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, Latin for commandment) proclaims Jesus' new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It celebrates Christ's example of humble service and selfoffering, represented by the washing of feet and the sharing of communion. The liturgy begins with an emphasis on confession and forgiveness, concluding the penitential season of Lent. It ends with the stripping of the church in preparation for worship on Good Friday.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28, 2024

