

# Synod of the Covenant Maundy Thursday Worship

April 1, 2021

**PRELUDE**                      My Song is Love Unknown                      *Arr. Corl*

## INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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We join a solemn journey of three days that has changed the world and our own lives. Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey since his first followers took it, long ago.

This is the night of love.

On the night Jesus took a towel and basin, and washed his disciples' feet. On this night he told them to do the same for others to show their love for him and for one another.

This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus have invited those preparing for baptism to begin with them a solemn vigil of prayer and fasting until the day of Christ's resurrection is fulfilled.

This is the night of love

On this night, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his followers for the last time, and invited them to remember him to encounter him anew, whenever they did the same.

This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus have welcomed those who have returned to the way of Jesus after a time of wandering and a journey of returning.

This is the night of love.

This is the night of love. And so, on this night, we welcome the penitent -- all here have wandered - and invite all preparing -- all here are still learning -- to join us in hearing and obeying the commandment of our Master and to feast at his table, that we may love one another as he has loved us.

Come, ye sinners. Come, ye thirsty. Come, ye weary. Come to the night of love.

**GTG 423**      Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God                      *SARADAY*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

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As Jesus prepares his body to be broken on our behalf, let us confess to the ways that we have betrayed him in word and deed.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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**Loving God, we are often unwilling to love one another, especially when others have wronged us for whatever reasons. We hold grudges rather than confront our aggressors. We talk about them rather than to them. As Judas betrayed Jesus, we continue to deceive the risen Christ. As we partake of the Lord's Supper, the table is not yet spread with good will. Forgive our reluctance to humble ourselves and wash us anew with the waters of new life**

*(time for silent confession)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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**GTG 437**      You Are The Lord, Giver of Mercy                      *WAYFARING STRANGER*

## PRAYER

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Gracious God, feed us with Your Holy Word and fill us with Your Holy Spirit, so that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE John 13:1-7, 12-16, 34-35

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*Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.*

*After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.*

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Remembrance

*Choirs of Forest Hills*

This is the night of love. Jesus washed his disciples' feet, reversing roles of master and student servant and host, and told them to do the same to show the world God's love and theirs.

On this night, we wash each other's feet, obeying Christ's command to love one another as he has loved us.

Come. Let Christ love you here, and share that love with another.

## RITUAL OF FOOT WASHING

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GTG 507

Come to the Table of Grace

*TABLE OF GRACE*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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This is the night of love. And this is the table of love. At this table, Christ, who loves us, is with us. All who have gathered on this night are welcomed to our Lord's table.

**He is with us, and we are his. We belong to God.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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And so we pray:

**We are yours, all yours, blessed Triune God, all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise, all our fears, all our grumbling, all our hesitations, all our loves, all our joys, all our passions, we give them all to you, with bodies, and minds and voices. Yours, all yours!**

Yours the blessing, yours the praise, from the unimaginable silence before the big bang, beyond the farthest reaches of time and space we may ever find, from infinity to infinity, everlasting to everlasting, you are God, boundless in love and power.

**What are we that you should notice us? What are we that you should love us? What are we what you should call us into covenant with you, a covenant we continually broke and you continuously sustained? Mercy! How full of mercy!**

How can we but praise you, joining our voices with the voices of angels and saints, seraphim and martyrs, strangers and family in every generation:

**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.**

**Jesus Christ who comes in our God's name, you are worthy, worthy!  
Lamb of God for all creation slain, you are worthy, worthy!  
Hosanna to our King! Hosanna to our King!**

You are holy, O God! You are worthy, O Christ Worthy in your birth! Worthy in your living!

**Worthy in your loving! Worthy in your serving!**

Worthy! Worthy! Worthy! You preached good news that God's kingdom has drawn near and gathered disciples, then and now, to learn and show the world what life in God's reign means: healing for the sick, new life for the dead, cleansing for the lepers, sight for the blinded, food for the hungry, freedom for the possessed, love poured out for all.

**Worthy the night you took a towel and basin, washed your disciples' feet, and taught them to do likewise.**

Worthy too, the same night we betrayed you, when you took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to your disciples. Worthy when you told them, "This is my body broken for you. Remember me."

**We remember.**

Worthy when you took the cup, praised God and shared it, and worthy when you said, "This is my blood of the new covenant for you. Remember me."

**We remember.**

We remember, and we praise you with our lives and these gifts of bread and wine, proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith:

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

Come upon us, Holy Spirit.

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit.**

Come upon these gifts.

**Come upon these gifts.**

Make them be for us Christ's body, Christ's blood.

**Make us one body in Christ enlivened in love by his blood.**

One in heart, one in mind, one in you, Holy Spirit, as you move us we lift up to you our prayers for the church and the world.

That we may proclaim the gospel boldly:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That healing may come for people who are sick, and peoples who are torn and weary:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That many dead and left for dead may be raised, and death itself vanquished:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are unclean may receive your cleansing grace:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are possessed, oppressed, distressed, depressed and downcast may be set free at last.

**Hear us, Lord.**

That we may love one another, and all your creation, as you have loved us.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Even so, come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit, on this night, and every night until we eat it new at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

**All blessing, honor, glory and power be yours, Holy Triune God,  
now and forever. Amen!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_

THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you, God, for uniting us with Jesus in this holy mystery. We are no longer our own, but yours. So send us, and put us to leading and serving, loving as you have loved us wherever we go. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

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This is the night of love. Go forth in the strength of this feast, in the care of this community, and with the love and blessing of our Triune God. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

Just As I Am

*Arr. Hayes*

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan would like to express special appreciation of the First Presbyterian Church of Niles for allowing the Presbytery to use their sanctuary for the Maundy Thursday service.

Thank you to the follow worship participants:

The Rev. Christopher Mergener (Niles) – Worship Leader

Ron Lehman – Mergener (Niles) – Recording of Service

Sarai St. Jayne (Niles) – Music for service

The Rev. David Schell (Fairplain) Foot Washing

Kristen Shell (PLM Technology Manager) Foot Washing and Video Production

The Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence (PLM Co Leader/Stated Clerk)

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