

# HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

APRIL 6, 2023 AT 6:30PM

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**O**n this night we remember the final supper Jesus shares with His disciples in the context of Passover. This event, which reveals the holiness of all subsequent meals eaten in His Name, institutes the mystery of His abiding redemptive presence in the church's celebrations of the Lord's Supper. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "command." It describes this night because Jesus tells His disciples in John 13:34, *A new command I give you: Love one another*. This evening also marks the beginning of the most solemn and joyful celebration of the entire Christian year. We enter what St. Augustine referred to as "the *triduum* during which the Lord died, was buried, and rose again."  
—*From Ashes to Fire*

**PRELUDE:** *It Happened on that Fateful Night* arr. Wilbur Held

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**.....Pastor Jon Cole

"Render your hearts and not your garments," says the Lord.

Return to the Lord your God.

**For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger**

**And abounding in steadfast love.**

With what shall I come before the Lord,

And bow myself before God on High?

**He has showed us what is good; and what does the Lord  
require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God?**

**\*HYMN 150: *Go to Dark Gethsemane***

**\*CONFESSION AND PARDON** .....Pastor Paul Shea

My sisters and brothers,

Christ shows us His love by becoming a humble servant.

Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

**Most merciful God, we your church confess**

**that often our spirit has not been that of Christ.**

**Where we have failed to love one another as He loves us,**

**where we have pledged loyalty to Him with our lips**

**and then betrayed, deserted or denied Him,**

**forgive us, we pray,**

**and by Your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Silence for individual confession)*

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.

But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us.

Believe the good news:

If you have confessed your sins,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Glory to God. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Exodus 12:1-14 .....Emily Spateholts

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God!*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Ps. 116; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.....Pastor David Huizenga

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God!*

**SONG:** *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* (words at end of bulletin)

**GOSPEL LESSON:** John 13:1-5, 31-35 .....Pastor Cindy Oden

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON:** *What Can I Offer the Lord?*

Pastor Wes Oden

**\*HYMN 152:** *O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done?*

### **THE GREAT 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 Him thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God...

Therefore, with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven,  
we join in the song of unending praise, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Most holy and merciful God...

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Following a few moments of silent meditation, when you are ready,  
come to one of the front tables, take a piece of bread and eat it, and a cup  
and drink it. Gluten-free bread is available on the communion table.

Please place your empty cup in the basket as you return to your seat.

If you would prefer or are unable to come to the front, we are happy to  
serve you in your seat or to provide a prepackaged cup of bread and juice.

**SONG:** *The Power of the Cross* (words at end of bulletin)

## **THE STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH**

A vivid and dramatic symbolism of the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane is the stripping of the altar table and the removal of all textile hangings and candles. Dating from the seventh century, it began for the purpose of cleaning and washing in preparation for Easter. But the stark, bare church reflected so clearly the tone of the occasion that the stripping became a ceremony in its own right. In a matter of minutes, the visual aspect of the room is completely changed, and the church remains bare until Easter Eve or Morn, when the process is reversed.

—*From Ashes to Fire*

## **A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE**

A service of Tenebrae or “Darkness” is based on the twelfth-century late night/early morning service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. After each of the sixteen readings, a candle is extinguished. Finally, the last candle, The Christ Candle, will be extinguished, and the stripping of the church will be completed.

*(After the Christ Candle is extinguished, there will be a loud crash)*

## **BENEDICTION**

Please exit the Sanctuary in silence, contemplating the death of Christ.

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\*Please stand if able

## **READERS**

1. Karl Schmidt
2. Lynlee VanWicklin
3. Nico Seddio
4. Margaret Cosentino
5. Nate Jacoby
6. Carolyn Miller
7. Doug Gaerte
8. Sarah Spateholts
9. Andy Walton
10. Audrey Pocock
11. Beth Beardsley
12. Lynn Oyer
13. Rachel Onivogui
14. Jack Cool
15. Ezra Knapp
16. Mike Jordan

**ACOLYTES:** Grace Jordan and Ellie Brubaker

**MUSICIANS:** Judy Congdon, organ; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;  
Dan Zambrano, cello

## ***Our Easter Morning Schedule***

*Easter Worship Services will be live streamed:*

*7:45 Baptism Service*

*10am Worship Service*

*8:30am Easter Breakfast*

### **How Deep the Father's Love**

**How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss; our guilt and shame on Him was laid,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One, bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was His love that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life—I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.**

### **The Power of the Cross**

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day, Christ on the road to Calvary  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then, Nailed to a cross of wood

**This the power of the cross, Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame, bore the wrath, We stand forgiven at the cross**

Oh to see the pain written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin  
Every bitter thought, every evil deed, Crowning Your bloodstained brow  
**(Chorus)**

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life, Finished, the victory cry  
**(Chorus)**

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering, I am free  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love

**This the power of the cross, Son of God slain for us  
What a love, what a cost, We stand forgiven at the cross**