



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Follow Bethlehem UCC

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RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP - *We Need to Linger, a Call to Worship for Holy Week*

Before we get to Easter, we need to linger:

in the vulnerability of the basin and the towel,

at the remembrance and promise of the table,

in the struggle and betrayal of the garden,

in the shadows and shouts of injustice,

at the bloody brutal beautiful cross,

in the silence of linen and spices and death,

For without these, the empty tomb is empty. Amen.

We Need to Linger © 2000 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia, www.revlisad.com

*OPENING PRAYER for MAUNDY THURSDAY

Gracious God,

As those who strive to follow Jesus in our living

and to trust your power in our dying,

we gather to reflect upon the life that ended on a cross.

We recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples:

although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal

Jesus washed their feet in service, and then

extended the bread and cup to each.

Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very

life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

We are humbled, honored and inspired
by the deep love Christ extended to the world,
and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.

Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you,
and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful living.

Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it,
with love and compassion for each creature and all of your creation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray. . .

Our Father....(Using debts and debtors)

— from *Come and Remember: Prayers for Maundy Thursday*, written by Rev. Kelly Burd. Posted on the United Church of Christ's **Worship Ways** website.

THE COMMUNION

When the time arrived for Jesus to be lifted up; When all had been prepared,
and He shared His last meal with His friends, The Lord, took the loaf, blessed it,
broke it, and gave it to the disciples.

When you eat the bread, remember Me. This is my body broken for you.

When the meal was finished, The Lord took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to
the disciples.

When you drink the wine, remember Me. This is my blood shed for you.

Now, as we gather at this table, we eat bread; we drink wine; and we
remember the One Who died to bring us life.

And we will keep sharing this meal until He returns. Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS (Remain seated. An usher will serve you in your pew.)

****Wine will be available in the outer rings, with the grape juice in the center of the
communion tray****

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We thank You, Lord For giving us this sacred meal, for giving us Your
Presence and Your life, And for reminding us of Your everlasting grace, Which
will be celebrated for all eternity. Amen.**

“Where is My Son?” *Written by Will Mathes and directed by Lora Mathes*

Bethlehem Players:

Simeon – Will Mathes
Anna – Nancy Zimmermann
Mother of Jesus – Bonnie Zorn
Jesus – Steven Voland
John Mark – Blake Holz
Mother of Judas – Jane Umland
Judas – Rev. Roy Rogers
Mother of James & John – Ginny Schultz
James – Pastor Randy Koppenhaver
John – Mark Riesterer
Mother of John Mark – Judy Mueller
Mother of Thief – Doreen Schmidt
Thief – Scott Umland

Choir - He Loved Them to the End

Rick Rabe, Will Mathes, Pastor Randy Koppenhaver, Ross Westphalen, Rev. Roy Rogers, Lora Mathes, Lisa Westphalen, Shirley Henschel, Judy Mueller, Laura Mueller, and Traci Rabe
Pianist: Kathy Bowe

PLEASE LEAVE IN SILENCE

Our free will offering tonight will be lovingly given to support the people of Ukraine. Please look for the basket in the Fellowship Hall as you leave this evening.

**Thank you for choosing to spend Maundy
Thursday at Bethlehem.
We hope to see you again soon.**

**Our Easter Sunday Service begins at 9:30am
with communion –
ALL are Welcome!**

