

Elm Grove United Methodist Church



April 9, 2020

Maundy Thursday

**The Greeting**

The grace of the LORD Jesus Christ be upon you. I pray you spend some time reading the liturgy, praying the prayers, exploring the scripture, and pondering and searching the message. Although we are not gathering as the body of Christ in our beautiful sanctuary, we are still the body of Christ connected to one another in love and mission. We're glad you joined us in worship today.

**\*Opening Words**

*Leader:* This is the day of remembrance for us.

***People:* We lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

*Leader:* Throughout the generations, we have received and handed on to others what the LORD has given to us: water for washing; the towel of service;

***People:* the bread of his body; the cup of the new covenant; proclaiming the LORD's death until he comes again.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

UMH #292

**Hebrew Bible Lesson**

Exodus 12:1-14

***Call to Confession***

Even among Jesus' closest disciples, not all were clean. On this night of all nights, we confess the ways we disappoint, deny, and even betray Jesus, our Teacher and LORD. Our confession of sin is made in the sure knowledge that Jesus is able to wash us in forgiveness and love.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you have called us to serve others as Christ has served us. We confess that we have not followed Christ's example as fully or as often as we should. We turn away from people in need. True humility eludes us, and we hide our own vulnerability before others. You have commanded us to love one another as you have loved us. We confess that we do not love so generously. Gathered on this Holy Thursday, we confess that we are capable of denying and betraying you and one another, no less than the first disciples. Forgive us, merciful God, and cleanse us of all our sin; then guide our feet to walk with you always. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. (Silent confession)**

*In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.*

\*Gospel Lesson

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

A Feast for the Soul

*When circumstances and concern for the common good keep us from gathering to share the Eucharistic Feast in person, we gather to pray, separated in the body yet ONE IN THE SPIRIT and ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!!*

*Before beginning, gather a candle and matches (or a small lamp), a Bible, a piece of bread, and a small glass of water.*

*CENTERING: Recognizing the presence of God*

God is with us. **We are not alone.**

Christ is with us. **The Risen One has met us, blessed and fed us on the road that leads us home.**

The community of the Holy Spirit is with us. **We gather with the communion of the saints in light throughout history and with God's people around the world.**

With brothers and sisters, absent in body but united in Spirit, we pray:

Holy One, Trinity of grace and power, Maker and Mother, Beloved and Lover, Father and Friend: Thanks be to you, O God!

**You are ever the father who gives us bread, not stones. You are the mother who never forgets we're her own. From the beginning of life to the closing of time, you are the One who is with us to the end.**

And so, with all who breathe on earth and all who sing in heaven, we praise your name and join Creation's song:

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done in whom this world rejoices,  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore. (UMH #102)**

## WORDS AND RESPONSE

*First reading:* "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

*Light the candle*

**Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You are our Risen LORD in whom light has conquered darkness.**

*Sit silently in the light, feeling the power and presence of the Risen Christ.*

*Second reading:* Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

*Hold the Bible*

**Here in our hands is the story of God's covenant of steadfast love with God's people. We are assured of God's presence with us at all times and places, even in the midst of fear and difficulty.**

*Sit quietly and absorb the stories of God's love and grace that can sustain you wherever you are.*

*Third reading:* On the last day, the climax of the festival Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (John 7:37-38)

*Hold the glass of water in your hands.*

**Without water, there can be no life. In creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the water and brought forth light. God brought John to the Jordan River to call us to repentance. We were nourished in the water of the womb. We were baptized by water and the Spirit into God's family. Water reminds us of the gifts of creation that God has so abundantly given us, and of the love and grace we have all received.**

*Drink the water slowly. Feel it flow into your body. Know that God's love is flowing into your body and soul right now.*

*Fourth reading:* Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

*Take a piece of bread in your hands.*

**Christ broke bread and fed the multitudes. Christ broke bread and formed a new covenant with his closest friends and with all who break bread in remembrance of him. Christ was made known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Bread reminds us that, just like individual grains of wheat are gathered together to make a single loaf, we who are scattered are one body in Christ.**

*Break and eat the piece of bread that you are holding. Remember the times you have received bread in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Remember those who gathered with you. Remember the presence*

*of Christ in that moment. Be assured that Christ is with you in every moment of your life. Sit silently and allow Christ's love to surround you.*

#### PRAYER

*In silence after every petition (marked by ...), specific names or situations may be spoken aloud or held closely in the heart.*

LORD Jesus Christ, light of the world, you speak to us words of life. Call forth in us rivers of living water and feed our deepest hunger.

**In trying times, in times of loneliness or confusion, in times we feel most alone, remind us that we are never alone, for you are with us always.**

Hear us now, and pray for us in our weakness with sighs too deep for words, as we lift up:

- Those whom we love – those present with us and those from whom we are separated...
- The prisoners, and those held captive physically, mentally, or spiritually...
- The sick and the suffering...
- Those who care for the sick, both medical caregivers and families who wait and watch with them...
- Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, the loss of freedom, the loss of security, the loss of a livelihood, or the loss of a sense of order and control...
- Those with more questions than answers, and all who long for your guiding light for their path...
- The lonely, the isolated, and those who long for a loving touch...
- Those whose remaining days on this earth are few, and for those walking in the valley of the shadow of death...
- Those whom we too easily forget, and those whose needs are known only to you...

**God of compassion, hear our prayers; fill us with your grace, and inspire us to be instruments of mercy and hope, for we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

*\*There will be no benediction or blessing throughout Holy Week until the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning.*

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#### **What Wondrous Love Is This**

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the LORD of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the LORD of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

\*congregational standing

**Bold** congregational response

### **Lent Worship Opportunities**

Good Friday - ON WEBSITE, [www.elmgroveumc.com](http://www.elmgroveumc.com)

and Facebook.

**TO BETTER COMMUNICATE WITH YOU,  
PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO MOLLY AT**

**[elmgroveumc@comcast.net](mailto:elmgroveumc@comcast.net)**

**THANK YOU!**

