

## FPC Maundy Thursday Communion Service

### Call to Worship

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 has 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.

Let us pray.

*Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death.*

*We come with his friends, the men and women who have followed him in every place and generation, to live once again this story of service and betrayal, of weakness and courage.*

*We come to witness your love in action. Be with us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### Call to Confession

The psalmist declares: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

We gather as a community in need of a Savior. We offer our honest confession, in faith and trust in our covenant God, knowing that God hears our voice.

Let us confess our sin to God...

*Lord Jesus, like Judas, we have betrayed you; like Peter, we have denied you; and like the other disciples, we have forsaken you. Yet you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on a cross. We plead for your forgiveness and mercy. And we ask that you strengthen us so that we do not turn aside but follow you to the very end – for the final victory belongs to you. Amen.*

We have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Jesus we remember tonight is Savior of the world. In Christ we are forgiven. And through him God abides with even us. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

### **Communion Liturgy**

Children: Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

**All:** We give thanks for God's work of creation, liberation, and salvation.

Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and delight, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O holy Lord, eternal God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them; you made us in your own image; and in countless ways you show us your mercy. Therefore, with choirs of angels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, joining our voices in their unending praise:

**All [sung or spoken]:**

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.

Minister: All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. He took our human nature and suffered death on the cross for our redemption. There he made a perfect sacrifice for the sins for the whole world. We praise you that before he suffered and died, our Savior gave us this holy sacrament and commanded us to continue it until he comes again.

Children: Why do we eat bread at this table?

Minister: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Children: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Minister: The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Children: What do we remember at this table?

Minister: We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All [*sung or spoken*]:**

**Dying, you destroyed our death;  
rising, you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Minister: Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking we may be made one with Christ and one another.

**All:** Amen.

Minister: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, now and forever.

Christ's body, given for you...

The cup of the covenant, Christ's blood shed for the forgiveness of sins...

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

—Based on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### **Scripture Readings**

#### **Luke 22:39-46**

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

#### **Matthew 5:4**

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

## *Short Meditation & Invitation*

### **Sending**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God love us so much, we also ought to love one another.

### **Closing Prayer**

*Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of you saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the honor of your name. Amen.*

### **Benediction**

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. Amen. May the peace of the Lord be with you. God bless.