



Sharon United Methodist Church

Rev. Susan C. Lindblade, Pastor

Thursday, April 6, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Maundy Thursday Service



Prelude

Anita Cotton

Opening Prayer

Rev. Susan Lindblade

THE MAUNDY THURSDAY STORY

Pastor: Jesus spent his life teaching us the meaning of love. Through word and deed Jesus showed us how to love God and to love one another. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He invited the women and the children and the tax collectors and the sinners to come to his table. He broke bread with the least and the lost and shared the cup of redemption with them all. He crossed boundaries of race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class. He challenged religious authority, and he scoffed at pomposity and self-absorbed grandeur. He called out the hypocrites. He admonished the scribes and the Pharisees for their hardened hearts. He brought a simple message: Love God, love yourself, and love one another.

People: *We gather in the name of Jesus and remember the way that he showed us. We gather to remember not just his death but his life.*

*Hymn

“His Name Is Wonderful”

CH 118

Pastor: The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we are not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark, night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of him. He threatens their comfort. He threatens their way of life. He threatens their power. They will come for him. First though, we will gather. We gather with Jesus and his closest friends. We gather with those that called him teacher, Rabbi, friend. We gather for the Passover meal, to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

People: *God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God who reigns, not the Pharaoh. Our God saved once. God saves forevermore.*

Video

“Behold the Lamb” by Stuart Townend

On Screen

Pastor: Even as they were sharing this sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that he was asking much from these men, and he knew that they would fail him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry at some slight? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman “wasted” when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas’ heart, but Jesus knew that he would be betrayed. And what did Jesus do with the man that would betray him? He broke bread with him. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked: “I would never betray you, Lord. It’s not me, is it?”

*Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

CH 324

Pastor: On the night in which Jesus was betrayed by his friend, he took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: “This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples and said, “Drink from this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for

many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and loving sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by Christ's blood. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Video "Surely the Presence of the Lord" by Nashville Singers On Screen
(To be played as we take Communion)

Pastor: When the holy meal had been shared, the disciples began to argue over which one would be the greatest. Even here, at the end of their time together, they did not seem to understand what Jesus had been teaching them all along. He reminded them that to be great in the Kingdom of God meant to serve. After Jesus' talk of betrayal, the disciples' argument, and Jesus' rebuke of them, the disciples seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:

People: *"Lord, I'm ready to go with you. And Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied knowing me three times."*

Pastor: Afterward, Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray for him, for he wanted to be alone. There, Jesus prayed. He asked his friends to keep watch, but they kept falling asleep. He prayed for another way out. He prayed in anguish. He prayed as a man who could feel pain, who would be hurt by betrayal, who would bleed when nails were driven into his arms and legs. He prayed as a man who knew that if he followed God's will, he would be charged, convicted, mocked, humiliated, abandoned, and nailed to a cross. Knowing all of this full well he prayed, "Not my will, but yours." Then he stood up for all that he had lived for. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

The disciples scattered quickly. Upon a kiss from Judas, the authorities came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. A servant girl saw Peter and said, "This man was with him, and Peter said, "I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him said, "You also are one of them," to which Peter said, "I am not." Still another, seeing that Peter was a Galilean, kept insisting he was a follower of Jesus. With conviction, Peter cried out, "I do not know what you are talking about. I do not know Jesus!"

And at that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter and Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him...and he wept bitterly.

As we sing, "Were You There?" we will strip the church of all its liturgical trappings and paraments. There will be no benediction and you are asked to leave in silence, reflecting on what you have heard this evening.

Take hope on this bitter Thursday night...for Sunday is coming!!

*Hymn "Were You There?" (vs. 1-3) On Screen /CH 315

*Depart In Silence

(*) Please stand as you are able