

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Austinburg, Ohio

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026

7 pm.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WASHING OF HANDS AS PEOPLE ENTER

TOLLING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS:

An Invitation to send Gifts Tithes, and Offerings to:

Fist UCC Church, P.O. Box 253, Austinburg, OH. 44010

MEDITATION MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

L: This is the day to remember that Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples for the last time..

P: The day to remember the deeds of those around him.

L; This is the day to remember that Jesus humbled himself by washing their feet..

P: The day to remember those who betrayed him.

L: This is the day to remember that Jesus gave us a new command.

P: That we should love one another, as he has loved us.

L: This is the day to remember that we, are invited to eat and drink his essence to receive eternal life.

P: This is the day we remember.

* HYMN: "*Journey To Gethsemane*" (NCH/Black) # 219

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, we are torn between the specter of Good Friday, and the feast which Jesus spreads before us. We come tonight with the sorrowful question, "Is it I?"... We know the answer. We have broken covenant, and turned from your grace, too many times. How can we ask for forgiveness when we find it so difficult to change? Good God, gracious God, help us tonight to rediscover the depths of your love. Loving Savior, deliver us tonight, grant us your divine pardon and transform us into a reflection of your Spirit. Amen.

* RESPONSE: (*to be sung*)

Lord, you are, more precious than silver. Lord, you are more costly than Gold. Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire, compares with you.

GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS:

L: God offers us the cup of salvation, not as something we have earned, but as gift to all who will accept it. Know this night , the costly, healing act, by which you are set free from the burden of sin. Live tonight, because of the sacrifice of Jesus has paid for your freedom.

P: We will live because Jesus died.

- candle one –

RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS:

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTUE: John 13: 3-17

A LITANY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY:

L: Why this this night different from all other nights?

P: Tonight we celebrate the life of Jesus Christ - God's gift to us.

L: Why is this night different from all other nights?

P: Tonight we celebrate God's gift to us of Shalom and the Holy Spirit, as made known to us at the Last Supper.

L: Why is this night different from all other nights?

P: Tonight we celebrate Jesus' gift of his own life, that we might know God's forgiveness, and receive life abundantly, and eternally.

ALL: In Egypt, God passed over the doors of the Israelites, our ancestors in faith. At that time, God slew the first-born of the Egyptians. This act of God set the Hebrew people free. Yet God so loves us, that God did not ,“ passover”, God's own son. Instead, God gave Jesus as a sacrifice, that we might be set free from sin and death. The dough of our spiritual ancestors, The Hebrews, could not rise, because of their sudden departure. Yet, God so loves us that we, each of us, are raised to be leaven for the world

andle two

SOLO: “ When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” Bridget Sherman

MESSAGE: “ Dear Diary: Tomorrow I Die” Rev. Bill Terry

** candle three –*

** HYMN: “ O Sacred Head Now Wounded” (NCH/ Black) # 226*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

Pastoral Prayer / Silent Prayer / Lord's Prayer (debts / debtors)

* *candle four* -

HOLY COMMUNION OF THE LAST SUPPER

Invitation

Communion Hymn: "Here O My Lord, I See You Face To Face"
NCH/Black # 336 (vs. 1,2, & 5)

Communion Prayer and Dedication:

****SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**** (*as music plays*)

Each person is invited to come forward using the East aisle, and return to your seats using the West aisle.

Please take your piece of Bread and dip lightly into the Chalice. Take as much time as you need to partake..

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Almighty God, we thank you for your acts of deliverance. You enable us to cross over from despair, to hope, and from death, to life. We thank you for the deep love of Jesus, which moved him to risk himself for the redemption of humanity. We now live in a time when it feels as if "the angel of death" is hovering over us, we thank you that in Jesus you offer to pass over our sin and despair. And so; We thank you for the symbols of the life he gave so precious, and costly. Move us dear Lord; Move us, fill us, and use us. Because of Jesus, allow us to become living symbols the world needs today Amen.

- candle five -

CLOSING HYMN: "Were You There?" (NCH/Black) # 229 -
(vs. 1-3 only -

**THERE WILL BE DARKNESS AS THE SOUND OF A
HAMMER IS HEARD**

* = Those who are comfortable are invited to stand.

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