

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



First Fruits

by Rev. Lauren
Wright Pittman
Inspired by
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Digital painting
sanctifiedart.org

Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024

Introduction to this Service:

A Service of Light-- based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;

A Service of Holy Communion in which we are invited to participate as one of "The Twelve" at the Last Supper

*These prayers are taken from the Service of Tenebrae, page 210 in Book of Worship © 1986 Office of Church Life and Leadership, United Church of Christ.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

† Indicates those places where those who are able are invited to stand.
Text in **bold** indicates places where the congregation is invited to join in response.

A Service of Lights & Communion

Jesus said, 'For I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.' ” (John 13:15)

Prelude

† Call to Worship

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: God is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

All: God is the strength of my life: whom shall I dread?

One: I am seeking your presence, O God.

All: Do not abandon me to my foes. There are people who hate me; there are things that control me: there are places that frighten me.

One: Trust in God. Stand fast and have courage.

All: Help us this night not to fall away. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and give us the courage to withstand.

† Hymn of Preparation

Christ is the World's Light

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Invocation for the Service of Light

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

All: Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine the day and the moon and the stars to shine by night. Kindle in us the flame of your love that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the Son of Righteousness. Amen

Lighting of the Table Candles

Prayer of Light

Rebecca Morello

One: O Gracious Light, Pure brightness of the eternal Creator in
heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and Blessed!

**All: Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold your vesper light,
we sing your praises, Holy God, One and All.**

One: You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Christ of God,
O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Lighting of the Table Candles

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Let us pray:

All: Spirit of Christ, be with us now.

We may try to avoid this hour of trouble; we may not stay awake.

**Help us to face our fear of the cross on which you died. Help us face the crosses
we must carry to honor your life.**

Silence for Personal Confession

(Silent Prayer)

One: Let us continue:

All: God, We are your disciples.

And we too follow you with confusion and fear.

Strengthen us, we pray,

**so that we may walk through life into death without fear;
through the night into eternal light. Amen.**

†Hymn #490

Servant Song

Reading *The Mandatum Novum* (New Commandment)
(*The origin for the name Maundy Thursday*)

John 13: 34-35

Rebecca Morello

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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.

Choral Reflection:

My Song Is Love Unknown

Molly Ijames

Remembering The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-30

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Lighting of the Table Candles

Video:

All Belong Here

The Many

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: Come to the table, come one and come all.

Many: We long for God's grace; we are hungry for God's peace.

One: You who are weary, come. You who are hungry, come. Come to the table where grace is made abundant and peace flows freely in bread and cup.

Many: We come seeking God's presence, we come knowing God cares.

One: Come to the table, come one and come all.

Words of Remembrance

Washing of Hands

As you come forward for communion you will be invited to dip your hands into the water basin before receiving the elements. In this experience we embody the lovingkindness of Jesus who, as a final gesture of grace, washed his disciples feet as they gathered at table.

Sharing the Meal

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We serve gluten free bread and serve non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like an usher to bring the elements to you. Communion cups may be discarded in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

Communion Music

Eat this Bread

Jesus Remember Me

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, Strengthen us by this meal for the journey ahead, that we might continue to walk with Christ along the road of his passion and death as we await his rising on Easter and to the fullness of new life. Through Christ, who shares this table with us, we pray. Amen.

†Taizé Chant:

Stay With Me

**Stay With Me
Remain Here With Me
Watch and Pray
Watch and Pray**

†Benediction

Postlude

Christ is the World's Light



Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;
Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;
Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;



born in our dark - ness, he be - came our bro - ther;
no one can serve him, and des - pise an - oth - er;
sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our bro - ther;



If we have seen him, we've seen the cre -
Who else u - nites us, one with the cre -
He who re - deems us, reigns with the cre -



a - tor. Glo - ry to God on high.
a - tor. Glo - ry to God on high.
a - tor. Glo - ry to God on high.

Eat This Bread

Refrain



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev - er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.



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Jesus, Remember Me

Jacques Berthier

♩ = 69

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

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HOLY WEEK

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Stay with Me

Stay with me, re - main here with me. Watch and

pray, watch and pray.

Good Friday Art



Above: *The Descent*,
by T. Denise
Anderson,
sactifiedart.org.



Left: *Golden Hour*, by Nicolette
Peñaranda, sanctifiedart.org.



Above: *Really?*,
Hannah Garrity
Sanctifiedarts.org.



Left: *Disarming Peter*,
by Lauren Wright
Pittman,
sanctifiedart.org.



Right: *Were You There?*,
Lisle Gwynn Garrity,
sancitifiedart.org.