

April 17, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



MAUNDY THURSDAY

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

IN PREPERATION FOR WORSHIP

The Maundy Thursday order is adapted from an ancient, solemn service observed on Thursday of Holy Week. As you enter silently you are encouraged to meditate upon the fact that it was on this night that the twelve disciples were with Jesus for the last time, and that he stood in the shadow of the cross. The gradual extinguishing of the candles symbolizes the shadows that fell across his final night, commemorating the flight of the disciples, and the approaching of the dark hate within Jesus' enemies.

*Call to Worship

Leader:

Dear God, on this, the night he was betrayed,
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.
We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

People:

Lord, hear us and humble us.

Leader:

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.
We pray for the unity of your church.

People:

Lord, hear us and unite us.

Leader:

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love,
but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and unloved.

People:

Lord, hear us and fill us with your love.

Leader:

On this night, he reminded his disciples that if the world hated them,
it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

People:

Lord, hear us and give us your peace.

Leader:

On this night, he accepted the cup of death
and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.
We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.

People:

Lord, hear us and welcome all your children into paradise.

*Opening Hymn No. 521

In Remembrance of Me

RED

A Reading

The Last Supper

Luke 22: 1-16

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed.
Stir within us tonight the reality to feel the depth of your son's love
and the generosity of his grace for all who follow in his ways.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Anthem

Remember Me

Deborah Govenor

The Shadow of Abandonment

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Luke 22: 39-46

The poem *Gethsemane* by Mary Oliver

The grass never sleeps.
Or the roses.
Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.
Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe
the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move.
Maybe the lake far away, where once he walked
as on a blue pavement,
lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not
keep that vigil, how they must have wept,
so utterly human, knowing this too
must be part of the story.

Anthem	Stay With Me <i>Vinay Thomas, baritone</i>	TAIZÉ
The Shadow of Betrayal	Jesus is Arrested	Luke 22:47-53
Anthem	Thy Will be Done	Craig Courtney
The Shadow of Denial	Peter Disowns Jesus	Luke 22: 54-62

The poem *Imperatives* by Kathleen Norris

Look at the birds	Do not be afraid
Consider the lilies	Maiden, arise
Drink ye all of it	Young man, I say, arise
Ask	Stretch out your hand
Seek	Stand up, be still
Knock	Rise, let us be going...
Enter by the narrow gate	Love
Do not be anxious	Forgive
Judge not	Remember me
Go: be it done for you	

Hymn	O How He Loves You and Me	PATRICIA
1. O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me! He gave his life. What more could he give? O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me! 2. Jesus to Calvary did go; his love for sinners to show. What he did there brought hope from despair. O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!		

The Shadow of the Cross	Trial and Crucifixion	Luke 22: 66 - 23: 43
Hymn	Jesus, Remember Me	TAIZÉ
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. <i>We will sing this multiple times; as you sing this simple hymn, take time to think about the love and sacrifice of Jesus.</i>		

A reading from Wendell Berry's poem, *Sabbaths* 1998

Whatever happens,
those who have learned
to love one another
have made their way
to the lasting world
and will not leave,
whatever happens.

The Shadow of Death	The Death of Jesus	Luke 23: 44-49
Anthem	O Sacred Head Now Wounded	PASSION CHORALE
The Shadow of Burial	The Burial of Jesus	Luke 23: 50-56
Anthem	Were You There Rich Williams, tenor	Traditional Spiritual