

Wesley United Methodist Church

7:00 PM Worship

April 17, 2025

Holy Thursday

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude	Beneath the Cross of Jesus Duet <i>cello, piano</i>	Frederick C. Maker arr. Gar Lanier (BMI)
---------	--	---

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Just as the disciples gathered in a room with Jesus, so we gather in this place, ready to watch, listen, and pray on this Holy Thursday.

Many: We come to remember and encounter Love Incarnate, who sets us free.

One: As Jesus kneels to wash the dirt from the disciples' feet, we join in their surprise; we've never seen a Savior who acts like a servant.

Many: We come to remember and encounter Love Incarnate, who sets us free.

One: As Jesus calls the disciples to wash one another's feet, we receive with them a new commandment: to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

Many: We come to remember and encounter Love Incarnate, who sets us free.

One: Beloved, come. Come to kneel as a servant, come to the table with your fellow disciples, come to worship Love Incarnate, who sets you free.

Many: We come to remember and to worship God who has loosed our bonds and set us free to love one another as God has loved us.

*Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

UMH 292, stz 1-3

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy God, Source and Sovereign, you put all power and authority into the hands of Christ — Christ, who washes our feet in humble service. Teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us, so that everyone will know that we are his disciples; through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Friend, we pray. Amen.

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

John 13:1-11

Anthem

Ah, Holy Jesus

Johann Crüger 1598-1662

arr. Carolyn Jennings

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter Passion, for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

Confession and Assurance

**Merciful, Mighty, Matchless One,
You have loved us to the end.
There was betrayal in our heart, yet you loved us anyway.
You knew we would deny you, yet you loved us anyway.
In our selfishness, we balked, we objected, we disapproved, yet you loved us anyway.
We sought to point the finger at anyone other than ourselves, yet you loved us anyway.
Forgive us, we pray. Renew our healing convictions, restore our call to service, rekindle our flame
for justice, that we may once again become your people of peace.**

(silent prayers of confession)

Receive the good news.
The One who created us has called us.
There is now no condemnation,
No shame at the table of God.
Only the love that makes us whole again.
Only the love we offer others.
In God's name, we are forgiven.
In God's name, we have been set free. Amen.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Luke 22:14-20

One: Are you prepared to come to the table of Jesus Christ, whose life was poured out for you?

Many: By the grace of God, we are.

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 13-14

The United Methodist Church practices Open Communion. All who desire to live in the love and peace of Jesus Christ are welcome to the bread and cup of communion. Come forward using the center aisle to stand or kneel at the communion rail for distribution of the elements. After consuming the elements and private prayer at the rail, you may return to your seat via the side aisles. Please alert the servers to anyone wishing to be served while remaining seated in the sanctuary. Non-alcoholic grape juice is used, and gluten-free wafers are available.

Communion Song:

Eat This Bread

(UMH 628)

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

John 13:31-35

Response

Ubi Caritas

TFWS 2179

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION

Matthew 26:30-35

Hymn

Go to Dark Gethsemane

UMH 290, stz 1

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;
 your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
 Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Response

“Stay with Me”

TFWS 2198

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
 No - ho pū no - ho mai me ia'u ki - a'i a

pray, watch and pray.
 pu - le kiai a pule.

JESUS PRAYS IN GETHSEMANE

Luke 22:40-46

Response

“Stay with Me”

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST

Luke 22:47-54a

Bell Toll

Leave in Silence

You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for quiet meditation.

Please join us...

Good Friday, April 18 from 12 noon – 3:00 pm Sanctuary Open for Prayer

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10 am for our Easter Worship service

Worship Leaders: Merri Lynn Braman (cello), Ronna Davis, Danielle Ferdinand, Debbie O’Driscoll,
David Potts, Gary Robinson, Thiago Vieira, Chancel Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship: Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries*, September 2024

Opening Prayer: *Adapted from Presbyterian Church (USA) Resources for Maundy Thursday*

Confession & Assurance: Adapted from Michael Anthony Howard, *Worship Ways*

Great Thanksgiving for Communion: *Written by* Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries*, September 2024. Adapted from “The Great Thanksgiving for Holy Thursday Evening,” Copyright © 1972 The Methodist Publishing House; Copyright © 1980, 1981, 1985 UMPH; Copyright © 1986 by Abingdon Press; Copyright © 1987, 1989, 1992 UMPH. Used by permission.

OneLicense Reprint + Livestream and Podcast/Recording License A-726657

CCLI Copyright License # 20653706 CCLI Streaming License #20653696