

Trinity United Church of Christ

Letting God's light shine since 1901

www.trinityuccwestville.org



April 2, 2026

Maundy Thursday

We worship God and seek to share His Word with everyone through faith in Jesus Christ

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here at Trinity UCC!

A prayer to help center us before worship

By Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson

One: Let us pray...

Many: Jesus, Lamb of God, we bless you today, remembering what you have done for us. You poured out your life to show us the love of God. Today we celebrate your gift of life, help and guide us as we somberly recall your death and exult in your resurrection. Amen.

Words of Welcome and Instructions

Call to Worship

One: This is a day of remembrance for us.

Many: We lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

One: Throughout the generations, we have received and handed on to others what the Lord has given to us:

Many: The bread of his body; the cup of the new covenant; proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again.

One: Let us join our hearts in worship, remembering what God has done for us in Christ.

Hymn

Precious Lord Take My Hand

1. Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn

Through the storm, through the night

Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

2. When my way grows drear
Precious Lord linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

3. When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

What Christ Did on This Day

One: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you also should love one another.

Many: On this day Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

One: On this day Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

Many: On this day Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

One: On this day Christ our God gave us this holy feast,

Many: That we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

Sharing Table Fellowship

Blessing

One: Loving powerful God, who hears our voice and the pleas of the world, your ear turns to us whenever we call.

Many: What shall we return to you for all your bounty? We raise the cup of deliverance to you tonight.

One: We are your servant people; you have undone the cords that bound us. Move with us tonight as we travel from joy to betrayal, leading to death.

Many: For your bounty, freely given, we give you praise and thanks. Amen.

Supper

We will share a simple meal of soup and bread. At the conclusion of the meal, the tables will be cleared for communion and we will continue in worship.

Sharing Communion

Tonight's communion liturgy comes to us from the Iona Community.

Scripture Reading

One: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Many: **Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

John 13:1; 31 - 35

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The New Commandment

³¹ When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

One: This is the Word of Jesus Christ.

Many: **Praise be to Jesus Christ our Lord.**

A Reflection on Maundy Thursday

Invitation to the Lord's Table

One: He was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest.

Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host.

Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him, those who wish to follow him must first be fed by him, those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.

Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did.
So now we do as Jesus did.

**Many: We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor.
In these, Jesus promised to be present; through these Christ can make us whole.**

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

1. **Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

2. **Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

3. **Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

Communion Prayer

One: Let us pray. The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up our hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God Most High.

One: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made the eternal home in which, though Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain, have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfillment.

And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our ken, we particularly praise you who eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him.

Here, too, our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness.

Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and heaven:

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

One: And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfills your purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came because words weren't enough.
Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts, and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer.

[In silence, please take a few moments to reflect on your own failings, and shortcomings, asking for Christ's mercy.]

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and cup and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of the One whose food we now share.

Many: Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Wine

One: Among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, and broke it, saying, "This is my body, broken for you."

Later he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and shared it with His friends, saying: "This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it and remember Me."

One: Holy God, Maker of all,

Many: have mercy on us.

One: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor,

Many: have mercy on us.

One: Holy Spirit, Breath of life,

Many: have mercy on us.

One: Let us remember God's mercy by praying the prayer Jesus taught us

The Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy 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**

The Communion of the People

One: Christ, our host, offers us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Come, all has been prepared.

[Each person acting as table host will come forward to receive a portion of bread and a cup for his/her table. She/he should take this bread and offer it to the others seated at the table, saying to each, "The body of Christ, given for you." Each person in turn will pull off a piece of bread and respond, "Thanks be to God." Please hold the bread until everyone at the table has been served, including the host. (It is appropriate for another seated at the table to offer the bread to the host, just as he/she has offered it to others.)

[In a similar way, the table host will then take the cup and offer it to each of the others seated at the table, saying, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." When it is offered, the person receiving will dip his/her piece of bread in the cup and again responding, "Thanks be to God." After dipping the bread, the person should go ahead and eat the bread. Continue until all have partaken. The host can then simply leave the bread and cup on the table.]

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Christ who has nourished us is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young, he has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having tasted his goodness, let us share his peace. Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Prayer after Communion

One: Let us pray.

Many: In gratitude, deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us our as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much of us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of heaven. Amen.

Hymn

The Servant Song

1. Brother, sister let me serve you.

Let me be as Christ to you.

Pray that I might have the grace

To let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey.

We are travelers on the road.

We are here to help each other

Walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you

In the night time of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you;

Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping.

When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow

Till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

Charge

One: Go in peace. As Christ loved you, love one another.

Many: **We Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!**

It is appropriate to leave this service quietly.

*Thank you for worshipping with us tonight! Remember, no matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity UCC*

**Please Join Us for our Easter Sunday Service
Come Feed Your Body at Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Stay for Our Worship service at 10 a.m. and Nourish Your Soul**