

Communion

We come now in groups of twelve, dipping the bread in the cup, in remembrance of the last Passover meal Jesus ate with his disciples and the institution of Holy Communion.

*The Congregational Hymn

DENNIS

“Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other’s woes, each other’s burdens bear;
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

*The Gospel

Matthew 26:30-46

Marty Harper

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please depart in silence.

**The congregation will please stand.*



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Here is the source of every sacrament,
The all-transforming presence of the Lord,
Replenishing our every element
Remaking us in his creative Word.
For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,
The air delights to bear his Spirit’s speech,
The fire dances where the candles shine,
The waters cleanse us with His gentle touch.
And here He shows the full extent of love
To us whose love is always incomplete,
In vain we search the heavens high above,
The God of love is kneeling at our feet.
Though we betray Him, though it is the night.
He meets us here and loves us into light.

—Malcolm Guite, *Maundy Thursday*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026

Seven o'clock

The Meditation of Preparation

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,

and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

—Psalm 36:7-9

The Prelude

“Sarabande from Suite No. 3”

Bach

Mert Ozkan, *cellist*

The Gathering and Invocation

Lesley Ratcliff

The Scripture Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

Anne Brawley

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Meditation of Confession

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 a part of the story

—from “Gethsemane” by Mary Oliver

The Prayer of Confession

Geoff Davidson

Leader: People of God, let us call to mind the faithfulness and mercy of God and confess our sins, first in the silence of our own hearts and then together.

Silence is kept

Leader: We have wounded your love.

People: O God, heal us.

Leader: We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world, transfigure us.

Leader: We forget that we are your home.

People: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Silence is kept

Leader: Lord our God,

All: In our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: With the apostle Paul, we are convinced

All: That neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: May the mercy of God forgive us, strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us safe in life eternal; through Jesus Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

The Gospel

Matthew 26:20-29

Joe Rankin

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Call to the Table

Scott Dickison

The Communion Litany:

Pastor: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

People: Thanks be to God for the broken bread.

Pastor: After supper, he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

People: Thanks be to God for the cup.

Pastor: Thanks be to God for the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God for the table of communion.