

Maundy
THURSDAY



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
A welcoming Christ-centered community...

Maundy Thursday
St. Paul's United Church of Christ-Birdsboro
April 2, 2026
6:00PM

About Maundy Thursday:

Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

Tonight's services will also incorporate Tenebrae, an ancient Good Friday service, which increases darkness by gradually extinguishing candles to symbolize the coming darkness of Jesus' death.

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor: Let us pray together:

All: Ever-gracious God, we gather in this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an Upper Room long ago. We come bearing the marks and burdens of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us, in the breaking of the bread, of our need and of your great sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of salvation. Draw us nearer to you and to each other in mutual service. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN "The Lord is My Song" [#20 Songs & Prayers from Taizé]

Word and Music Copyright © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714498. All rights reserved.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "The Lord is My Song". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life. The". The score includes a "fine" marking at the end of each system.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Pastor: Holy Deliverer,

Tonight, we have reached the all-too-familiar story of the eve before the execution.

People: While there are times when we relate very well to Jesus in this story, we forget that we have been Judas, Peter, and the disciples.

Pastor: We have allowed ourselves to become part of someone's story of pain. Our words have pierced another's hearts.

People: We have betrayed our neighbor instead of filling this world and another's soul with love.

Pastor: Instead of living with the heaviness of guilt, allow us to create peace around us and within us.

Invite us to share our repentance and to reconcile whenever possible.

All: May we live into the mandate to love one another as you love us. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Pastor: Through the redeeming love of Christ,
God has poured grace upon us.

May the mercy of God transform us into bearers of love in a wounded world.

All: Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the Peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

First Reading Luke 22:7-13

Second Reading John 13:4-5 and 12-16, adapted

HAND WASHING AND BLESSING RITUAL

Introduction

A Blessing for the Washing of Hands

Hand Washing

(Two individuals will come to you to pour water over your hands and then dry them with a towel. This is to symbolize the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus. If you would prefer to not participate in the washing, simply indicate this to the two individuals who will come to you.)

Third Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

HYMN "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"

May be sung as an ostinato by omitting verses.

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev - er be hun - gry." The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst." The piano accompaniment starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Word and Music Copyright © Tune: Jacques Berthier, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: John 6; adapt. by Robert J. Batastini, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714498. All rights reserved.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(adapted from Luke 22:14-20)

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

All are welcomed to the sacrament of communion, as tonight we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. You will receive the plate of bread to take from, and then offer to your neighbor using the words, "The Bread of Christ." Pass the plate to your neighbor after they have taken a piece of bread and we will continue to share the plate around the table until all are served. The Cup will be brought to your seat. The bread is gluten free. The cup is grape juice. After receiving the bread and cup, you may partake immediately.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: As Jesus nourishes us with his very body, we become the Body of Christ.
May this feast fuel us for the work ahead.

ALL: Amen.

CONTINUING THE FEAST

Fourth Reading Luke 22:24-27

Group Conversation

Take a few moments to discuss the following questions with those right beside or across from you at the table. You may discuss one or both questions, or whatever else comes to mind. When you hear the ringing of a bell, please bring your conversations to a close and we will continue our worship.

1. Jesus flips the image of power entirely – the one who serves is the greatest. Where have you seen that kind of upside-down greatness in someone's life? Or in the world?"I am among you as one who serves."
2. Jesus says this as a statement of identity, not just action. How does service as *identity* differ from service as *obligation*?

JOURNEYING TO THE CROSS

HYMN “Stay with Me” [#8 in Songs & Prayers from Taizé]

Stay With Me / Bleibet Hier

Ostinato Refrain

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The first system contains the first two lines of the refrain, and the second system contains the last two lines. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. Dashed ovals in the original image highlight specific musical phrases in both staves of each system.

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
Blei - bet hier und wa - chet mit mir, wa - chet und

pray, watch and pray.
be - tet, wa - chet und be - tet.

Text: Matthew 26; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
© 1982, 1983, 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

LICENSE #A-714498. All rights reserved.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Fifth Reading Luke 23:20-27

First Story: Simon of Cyrene

PRAYER

Pastor: When we follow in the steps of Jesus, we say yes to bearing his cross – not because there is any kind of value in suffering, not to prove our selflessness, nor because God wills it, but because living as Jesus lived makes the cross inevitable. So together, let us pray:

ALL: Jesus, when we side with you, we side with all who threaten the status quo.

Pastor: When we refuse the call to see others' struggles as our own, we abandon our kin to shoulder their crosses alone. So we pray, O God,

ALL: embolden us to accept the risks that come with following you – even as we resist the powers and systems that set crosses on our shoulders. Amen.

Sixth Reading Luke 23:39-43

Second Story: The Criminal on the Cross

HYMN “Jesus, Remember Me” [W&R #285]

HOLY WEEK

285

Jesus, Remember Me

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.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

WORDS: Taizé Community, 1981; para. Luke 23:42
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
Words and Music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (Admin. GIA Publications)

LICENSE #A-714498. All rights reserved.

Seventh and Final Reading Luke 23:44-46, 48

HYMN “Within Our Darkest Night” [#37 in Songs & Prayers from Taize]

LICENSE #A-714498. All rights reserved.

Within our Darkest Night / Dans nos Obscurités

Ostinato Refrain

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.
Last time

THE TOMB

Closing Litany

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Creator, 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, for ever.
Amen.

HYMN "Nothing Can Trouble" [#29Songs & Prayers from Taize]

The musical score is written for piano in common time (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system includes the lyrics: "Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en. Those who seek God shall". The second system includes the lyrics: "nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics (p, mf, f). Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Am, Dm7, G, Em/C, F, Dm6, E, Am, F, Dm6, E, Am.

Word and Music Copyright © Tune: © 1986, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: St Teresa of Avila. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714498. All rights reserved.

BENEDICTION

The altar will be covered with black cloth to symbolize our entrance into the time of Holy Week when we witness Christ's betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion.

All are invited to leave in silence.

Liturgy adapted from:

Sanctified Art Everything in Between Holy Week Liturgy, "Everything in between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes," by Avery Arden, © 2025 Sanctified Art/Words for Worship.

Opening Prayer by the Rev. Nancy Townley from www.ministrymatters.com

Worship Leaders

Worship Leader – Rev Deborah Parker-Hill
Readers – Nancy Hughes and Andy Headman
Accompanist – Betsy Johnson

Holy Week Continues...

Good Friday 2025 Cross Walk Birdsboro April 3, 2026 / 3pm

On Good Friday, April 3rd, join your siblings in Christ
—from many local congregations—
on a meaningful walk and public witness to our faith.

Please park in the lot at St. Mark's Lutheran church. Then, at 3pm,
the Cross Walk will begin in
the parking lot of Boyer's Food Market. From there, the cross will
be carried to the Boone Area
Library, the clock tower at Borough Hall, the VW/American Legion,
the Birdsboro-Union
Firehouse, St. Paul's UCC, and will then return to St. Mark's, where
light refreshments will be
offered. All are welcomed to walk and if desired, to carry the cross,
as we follow Jesus in our community.

**Easter Worship Service
Communion / Flowering Cross
St. Paul's Church-Birdsboro
Sunday, April 5, 2026 / 9:30am**