

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Thursday, April 2nd, 2026

Maundy Thursday

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Gathering and Welcome

*Call to Worship

Dianne: Followers of Jesus, our lives are filled with stress and distress, disquiet and fear.

Many Voices: In the unrest and the fear, we gather to worship God who delivers us.

Dianne: Like the disciples gathered with Jesus, we feel the turmoil of rumors and conspiracies, the grasping for power and security that threatens the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors.

Many Voices: In the suffering and the tumult, we gather to call on God who delivers us.

Dianne: Facing an unknown future, the disciples gathered as we do today, to be surprised by Love, to share a meal, to remember their story, to receive a new story and a new meal.

Many Voices: In the uncertainty of these days, we gather to share the story of God who delivers us.

Dianne: Followers of Jesus, come. Come to the basin and be washed. Come to the meal and be fed. Come to the table and be strengthened for the journey.

Many Voices: We gather together to remember the story of God's deliverance, that we may go from this place to heal the hurting, to tend the suffering, to love one another as Jesus loves us.

*Hymn

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

UMH #549

Prayer of Confession

Dianne: Gracious God, as those who strive to follow Jesus in our living and to trust your power in our dying, we gather to reflect upon the life that ended on a cross.

Many Voices: We recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples: although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.

Dianne: And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal, Jesus washed their feet in service, and then extended the bread and cup to each. Jesus called them to love one another and invited them to share in his very life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

Many Voices: We are humbled, honored, and inspired by the deep love Christ extended to the world, and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.

Dianne: Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you, and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful living. Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it, with love and compassion for each creature and all of your creation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray to you. . .

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

Dianne: Gracious God, feed us with your holy Word and fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Many Voices: Amen.

Scripture Readings

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14 *(NRSVue)*

Hymn

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" *(verse 1)*

UMH #286

Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *(NRSVue)*

Hymn

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" *(verse 2)*

UMH #286

Gospel Lesson

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 *(NRSVue)*

Dianne: Followers of Jesus, our lives are filled with stress and distress, disquiet and fear.

Many Voices: In the unrest and the fear, we gather to worship God who delivers us.

Hymn

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" *(verse 3)*

UMH #286

Reflection

Hand-Washing

With Singing

"Jesu, Jesu"

UMH #432

Holy Communion

***Hymn**

"Let Us Break Bread Together" *(verses 1 & 2)*

UMH #618

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Dave: God of blessings, even when the workings of the world are harsh,

Many Voices: you are present.

Pastor Dave: Even when shame rattles our souls,

Many Voices: you pour goodness and mercy upon us.

Pastor Dave: May we live into the command of Christ:

Many Voices: love one another as Christ loved us.

Pastor Dave: Through our actions, our faith comes alive

Many Voices: and our neighbors experience Divine love in new ways. Amen

***Hymn**

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" *(verses 1-3)*

UMH #290

Striping of the Church *(While Singing)*

***Dismissal**

Going Forth

The church office is **CLOSED** on Monday, April 6th.