



# MAUNDY THURSDAY

A Celebration of the Lord's Supper

# FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH



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

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another."*

John 13:34-35

The English "Maundy Thursday" comes from a corruption of the Latin *mandatum*. The name *Mandatum* comes from the Latin *mandatus*, "to commission or mandate," in the context of John 13:34, "A new commandment [*mandatum*] I give you," which by the Middle Ages was part of the traditional readings for Holy Thursday.

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Thursday, April 17, 2025

7 pm

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## GATHERING <sup>1</sup>

ONE: Everyone who answered Jesus' call to follow him found their lives upended. Leaving their livelihoods behind, they leaned into an upside-down way of thinking, one that centers the last first and the first last.

On the fateful night when Jesus gathered his closest friends for one last meal, the disciples' lives were upended once again. Jesus invited them into a liminal space, a threshold between his life of teaching with them at his side, and the approaching reality of his arrest and death.

In this space, they were called to reimagine supposed opposites: power and weakness, fear and hope, innocence and guilt, life and death.

We too will linger in in-between spaces and challenge dualistic thinking. Just as the disciples did, we will share a meal, talk together, and sing. Many of this service's songs are simple meditations created by the monastic community of Taizé, France; these Taizé chants may be new to you, but their repetitive lines are easy to pick up. Or you can simply listen if you choose, allowing the music to wash over and into you.

This evening we will follow Jesus from the Table to the Garden of Gethsemane. Come, let us join Jesus in his final days.

## CALL TO WORSHIP <sup>1</sup>

ONE: We have come to worship Jesus Christ  
**MANY: who took on finite flesh: fully human and fully divine—**  
ONE: a being who is love itself,  
**MANY: yet loathes injustice;**  
ONE: who is almighty,  
**MANY: yet let go of power to be in solidarity with outcasts  
and criminals.**  
ONE: We gather to worship the living God  
**ALL: who died.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

*As we enter into a time of prayer and reflection, we invite each person to light a candle at their table. As you do, offer a quiet prayer—perhaps for peace, for forgiveness, for someone in need, or simply to be present with God in this sacred moment. These small flames are signs of the light that remains, even as the shadows of the Passion story deepen. We will take a few moments in stillness as each candle is lit and our prayers rise together in the silence.*

## SONG

*Come and Pray in Us Holy Spirit*

Music from the Taizé Community

*The piano will introduce the melody. The congregation is invited to join in and repeat the song prayerfully several times, allowing the words to settle into the heart.*

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Come and pray in us Ho - ly Spir it, come and pray in us, come and vis - it us, Ho - ly Spir it, Spir - it come, Spir - it come.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Come and pray in us Ho - ly Spir it,  
come and pray in us,  
come and vis - it us, Ho - ly Spir it,  
Spir - it come, Spir - it come.

READING

Luke 22:7-13

<sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." <sup>9</sup>"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. <sup>10</sup>He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup>and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there." <sup>13</sup>They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

ANTHEM

*A View from the Upper Room*

Craig Courtney

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SONG

*Eat this Bread*

Music from the Taizé Community

*The piano will begin the melody. The congregation will sing the repeated refrain while the cantor offers verses, creating a layered, meditative experience.*

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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR THE BREAD & CUP <sup>1</sup>      Adapted from Luke 22:14-20

ONE: On this very night nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus reclined at a table with his closest friends. He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." After taking a cup and giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. I tell you that from now on I won't drink from the fruit of the vine until God's kingdom has come." After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after the meal and said, "This cup is the new covenant by my blood, which is poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD <sup>1</sup>

ONE: The Last Supper was an intimate gathering of close friends, where anxiety for the future blended with conversation and song. Our Communion feast tonight will hold these elements too. We invite you to serve each other, passing the elements from person to person around the table. One person at your table can begin by taking the bread and cup and turning to the person on their right, saying a blessing such as, "The bread of life; the cup of salvation." That person will take one piece of bread and dip it into the cup and eat it. Then, they will take the bread and cup/s and serve the person to their right until everyone has been fed.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION <sup>1</sup>

ONE: As Jesus nourishes us with his very body, we become the Body of Christ. May this feast fuel us for the work of joining others in their in-betweens. Amen.

## READING

Luke 22:39-42

<sup>39</sup> Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." <sup>41</sup> He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

## SILENT MEDITATION

*In these quiet moments, we remember the depth of Christ's love and the weight of the night that followed. Let your heart rest in stillness. Listen for God's presence in the silence.*

## SONG

*Stay with Me*

Music from the Taizé Community

*The piano will introduce the response. The congregation will sing the repeated refrain, with the cantor interweaving verses between the communal response. Allow the simplicity of the chant to draw you deeper into the quiet presence of Christ.*



## READING

Luke 22:43-46

<sup>43</sup> An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. <sup>45</sup> When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup> "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

## ANTHEM

*Prayer from Genius Child*

Ricky Ian Gordon

## LINGER AND LEAVE IN SILENCE

*As this sacred night draws to a close, we invite you to remain for as long as you wish in quiet reflection. There are no final words, no benediction—only the stillness of the moment, echoing the solemn journey of Christ from table to cross.*

*Please depart in silence, carrying the weight and wonder of this holy night with you.*

## Participants

Rev. Dr. R. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*

Rev. Mary Kate Buchanan, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

Rev. John Girard, *Executive Minister, Minister of Mission and Justice*

Rev. Sarah C. Kientz, *Minister to Youth and Camp Akita*

Rev. Seth Stearns, *Minister of Spiritual Life and Learning*

Katie Ocasio, Gwen Carmack, Dave Heigle, and Kathy Glass, *Deacons*

Members of the Cambridge and Chancel Choirs

Taae Hamid, *pianist*

Alyssa Schott, *soprano*

Arthur Marks, *tenor*

C. Andrew Blosser, Elizabeth Arteta Cunningham, and Nick Denino, *cantors*

<sup>1</sup> Liturgy by Avery Arden | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



first community

where everyone is accepted