



# MAUNDY

*Thursday*

APRIL 2, 2026

6:30 P.M.

# *The Worship of God*

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Childcare is available for children 4 and under on the first floor nursery hall.

\*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.

Large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please ask a member of our Welcome Team for assistance.

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*Maundy Thursday receives its name from the Latin “mandatum” or the “new commandment” given by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper—where Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and commanded them to love and serve one another as he had done.*

*Tonight begins with a celebration of Holy Communion and the remembrance of love and service which Jesus lived and taught. The mood turns solemn as we fix our attention on the agony in the garden of Gethsemane and the journey to the cross and crucifixion. The altar, symbolic of Christ, is stripped and left bare for Good Friday.*

## *The Prelude*

“My Heart Is Ever Yearning” | Johannes Brahms

Raina Wood, Organist

*The Pastoral Greeting and Opening Prayer* | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

## *\*The Processional Hymn*

UMH 290 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” | REDHEAD 76

Verses 1-3

## *\*The Prayer of Confession*

Loving God, we will betray you; yet you invite us to your table. We will deny you; yet you give us yourself in love. We will fail to pray with you; yet you pray for us.

We will crucify you; yet you forgive us. Even in our sin, you offer us love and grace. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**God of love, your Son Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, proclaimed to us a new commandment: love for one another. Bind us in that love and make us servants of each other. Let conflict be unknown among us and lead us to forgive one another as you forgive us. Help us to seek you among those who need you most, to empty ourselves of all envy and pride, and become joyful servants of the poor and suffering. Where we have not served, fill us with your servant spirit. Where we have not loved, transform us with your loving ways. Where we have not forgiven, grace us with your forgiving nature. If we did not know you when you entered our city, or hear you when you spoke the words of life, Lord have mercy. If we failed to understand when you broke the bread of life in our midst, Christ have mercy. If we failed to understand when you took the bowl and the towel to serve us, Christ have mercy. If we did not recognize you in the garden of our time and place, Lord have mercy. Wash us and prepare us to celebrate the obedience of Jesus, whose love led him to the cross.**

*All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Jesus said: *"I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are loved and you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are loved and you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen**

*\*The Kyrie* | Antonin Dvorak

Translation: *Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

*The Scripture Reading* | Psalm 55

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Message* | Rev. Montana Hamby

"One of You Will"

## *The Anthem*

“Ave Verum Corpus” | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

Translation from Latin: *Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for humankind, whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood, be for us a foretaste in the test of death.*

## *The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From the earth you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You fed us manna in the wilderness and gave grapes as evidence of the promised land. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When we had turned aside from your way and abused your gifts, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Emptying himself, that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet, and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.\* Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Sung: **Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, given for you.

Sung: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

*During the singing, those serving communion are invited to the Chancel. \*In the United Methodist Church, grape juice is used for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

## *The Receiving of the Bread and Cup*

*At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table.*

*If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher.*

*Gluten-free communion elements are available in the Narthex.*

*The altar is open for prayer. If you wish to receive communion at the rail, kneel and open your hands and a Minister will serve you.*

## *The Music during Communion*

“Ubi Caritas” from *Quatre Motets sur des thèmes grégoriens* | Maurice Duruflé  
Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

Translation from Latin: *Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.*

## *The Scripture Reading* | Matthew 26:14-27:31 | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

## *The Stripping of the Altar*

*To remember that night, all worship articles and adornments are removed from the altar and chancel. This symbolizes both the suspension of Holy Communion and the abandonment of Jesus Christ.*

## *The Recessional*

“Pie Jesu” from *Requiem* | Gabriel Fauré  
Sung by Ava Bogarde, soprano

Translation from Latin: *Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest, grant them rest, eternal rest.*

*All depart in silence.*

*Holy Week worship continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 12:00 noon.*

# HOLY WEEK

*at Athens First*

**GOOD**

*Friday*

**APRIL 3** | WORSHIP 12:00 P.M.

**EASTER**

*Sunday*

**APRIL 5** | SUNRISE AT THE STEEPLE 7:00 A.M.  
SANCTUARY WORSHIP 9:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

**COME AND EXPERIENCE THE HOPE AND JOY OF EASTER  
AT ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!**

*Join us on Easter Sunday, April 5, as we celebrate our risen Savior with three triumphant worship services. **Our 7:00 a.m. Sunrise at the Steeple service** will take place in front of our sanctuary on North Lumpkin Street. It will feature uplifting music, an inspiring message, coffee and refreshments. **Our traditional 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. sanctuary worship services** will feature our choir, brass, and handbells. You're also invited to help us decorate our floral Easter cross located outside in front of the church. Overflow seating will be available for both services.*

**We hope you can join us as we celebrate the good news of Easter —  
"He is not here. He is Risen!"**

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### FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

**Rev. Jeremy Lawson** | Senior Minister  
*jeremy@athensfirstumc.org* | 404-304-3574

**Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby** | Associate Minister  
*natalee@athensfirstumc.org* | 404-414-1701

**Rev. Montana Hamby** | Associate Minister  
*montana@athensfirstumc.org* | 770-633-3140

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson** | Associate Minister  
*nancy@athensfirstumc.org* | 762-233-4761

**PRAYER REQUEST?** | Please visit our website at [athensfirstumc.org/congregationalcare](https://athensfirstumc.org/congregationalcare) and fill out a form to submit your prayer request. If you desire for the request to be shared with our Prayer Ministry team, please indicate that in your submission. Prayer requests can also be made directly via email [prayer@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:prayer@athensfirstumc.org).

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