

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2, 2026

Welcome. This booklet will be your guide as you move through the prayer/reflection stations this evening. You are encouraged to proceed to the stations in any order, taking the time you need at each one. As much as possible, please use this time for silent meditation and save conversations for later.

*May you experience honest reflection, the freedom of forgiveness, and the overwhelming grace of God as you remember the foundational story of our faith once again.*



## REUNION

Location: Fellowship Hall Wall

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*"It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.'"* - Luke 23:44-47

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION**

Is there anything that you want to turn over to God's care? Perhaps something has brought you sadness or sorrow that you want God to hold. Are there things that feel too big or too heavy that you want God to help you hold? Are you simply ready to surrender to God's desires for your life?

Take a moment to put your thoughts in writing, fold the piece of paper and gently place it in the pair of open hands before you. Let this act symbolize God's readiness to receive your burdens, your heart and your spirit.

### **PRAYER PRACTICE**

Use one or more of the methods of body prayer listed below as you express your desire for surrender to God:

- Lift your hands over your head.
- Kneel on the prayer bench.
- Hold out your arms (away from your body) with your palms up as a gesture of placing your life in God's hands.
- Prostrate yourself on the floor, face down.
- Bow your head.

### **PRAYER**

Magnanimous God, you are the one in whom I live and move and find meaning. I come to you this night with open hands. What I have held too tightly, I release. What I cannot control, I entrust to you. Receive all that I am—my fears, my hopes and my whole life, I pray. Into your hands, I commend my spirit. Amen.



Location: Sanctuary

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*“When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, ‘It is finished’ and bowed his head.” - John 19:30*

*“After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”*

- John 19:38-42

**WORDS FOR CONSIDERATION** (adapted)

*“Indeed, our true privilege lies in the cross as does our true sense of suffering and passion. It is through the reality of the cross we are privileged to bring about the ‘kindom’\* of God into the world of xenophobia and exploitation of [others]. When all the strands of our lives are etched together, and we fight for justice along with [those who are] voiceless, we create God’s golden kindom\* of justice and love. These vibrant strands already exist in the reality of [many]; how we bring it out and about is our responsibility as well as the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in the world.*

*\* A term that defines God’s reign by kinship ties (i.e., relationship of all humans as being kin) rather than an imperial rule.”*

- Angela Ryo, Interfaith Worker Justice

**OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION**

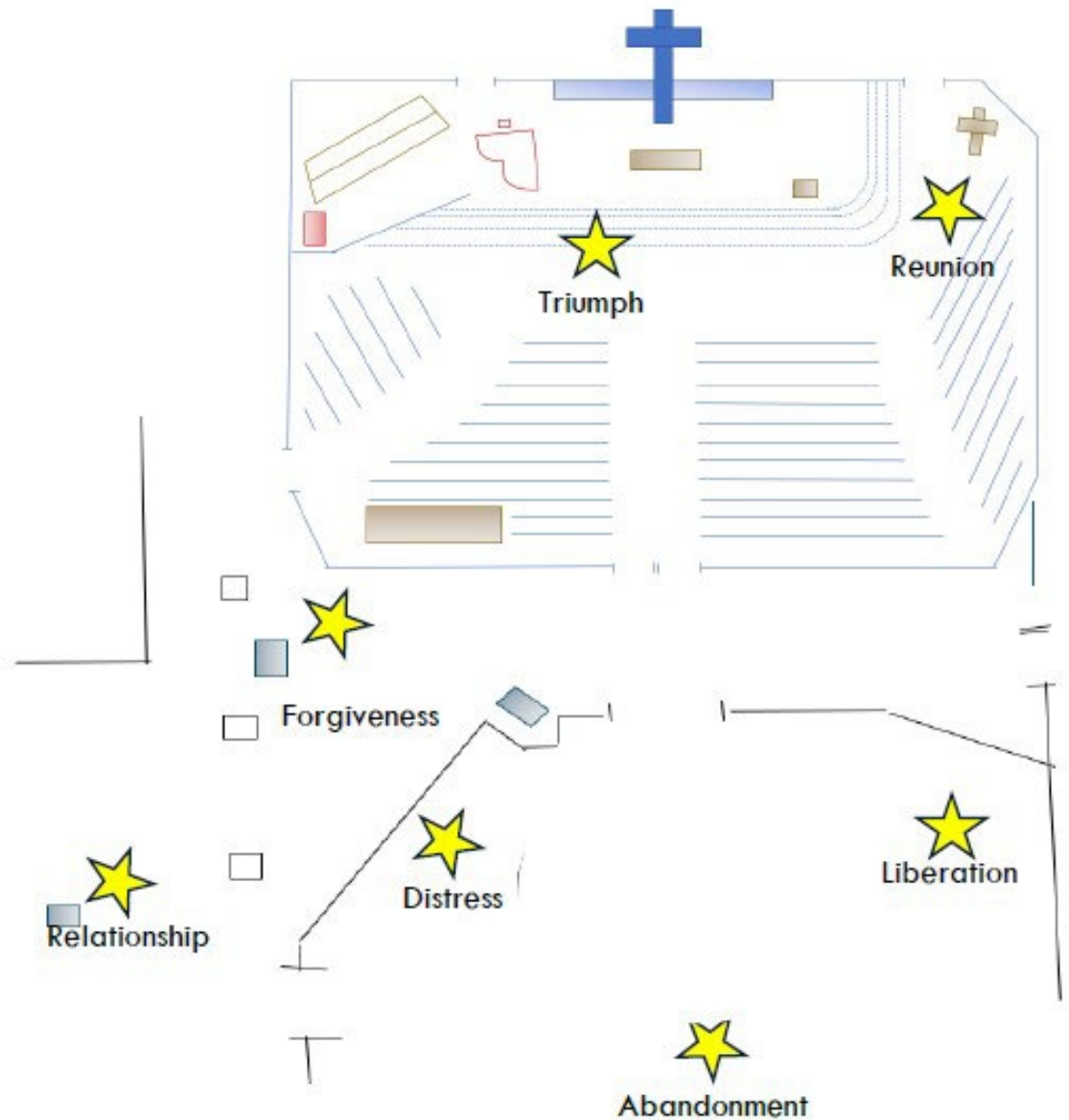
On this darkest night, the care of friends moves in silent and profound love. What would the world be like if we treated one another with care and grace at all times? If we love our neighbors as Jesus commands us to do, we will usher the kingdom of God into this world.

You are invited to anoint the cross before you with a handful of rose petals as a gesture of your love and devotion for Christ and God’s world.

**PRAYER**

Holy Jesus, you gave everything for me and for all of creation—even the people I struggle to love. Lead me as I strive to lead others in making your dreams for justice, equity and love for all a reality. Amen.

**STATION LOCATIONS**





Location: Lobby – Kids' Check-In Desk

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

*"[The people] were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. He released the one they asked for, who had been in prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will." - Luke 23:23-25*

*"They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.'" - Luke 23:32-34a*

### OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

Take the Play-Doh in your hands and form a heart as you consider who you need to forgive. Changing the shape of your heart takes time and intentional effort. May God soften and enlarge yours, making room for forgiveness.

### QUOTE FOR CONSIDERATION

*"Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all people love poorly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak, that is the human family. To forgive another from the heart is an act of liberation. It means that I continually am willing to forgive the other person for not being God, for not fulfilling all my needs. And I, too, must ask forgiveness for not being able to fulfill other people's needs. When you can forgive people for not being God, then you can celebrate that they are a reflection of God. Forgiveness, therefore, liberates not only the other but also ourselves. It is the way to the freedom of the children of God." - Henri Nouwen*

### PRAYER

Forgive me God, and move my heart to forgive others, I pray. Where I have been wounded, help me to find healing. Remind me that reconciliation is a necessary part of the blueprint for your renewed creation. Amen.

***Each person is invited to bring their Play-Doh home with them.***



Location: Fellowship Hall

### SCRIPTURE READING

*"After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips." - John 19:28-29*

### THOUGHTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Jesus says, "I am thirsty." Not just for water—but from exhaustion, suffering and abandonment. When he is given something to drink, it is not comfort, but vinegar. Bitter. Sharp. Unkind. This is not just what Jesus received—it is what the world often gives. When we long for relief, we are met with disappointment. When we hope for mercy, we taste bitterness. And yet, even here, Jesus receives it. He does not turn away. With every word that cuts, every decision that divides, every act that adds harm to an already hurting world, God continues to draw near to those who ache.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

Take a sip of (apple cider) vinegar from a cup and notice your reaction. As the taste lingers, consider:

- What bitterness do you carry?
- Where do you feel thirst—in body, in spirit, in hope?

Offer your thoughts to God as you pray.

### PRAYER

Jesus, you were ever-present to the pain around you, and did not escape into the safety of indifference, even in the shadow of the cross. We know of your care for those who suffer and your confidence in the way of love, which made you kind, softened you to even the hardest hearts, and kindled in you love for humanity. In your gentle mercy, never let me become a stranger to the world's aches, turn away from the pain of my neighbors or grow accustomed to pain that should not be. Hear the prayers of my heart and lead me in the ways of your compassion, I pray. Amen.



## LIBERATION

Location: Fellowship Hall Wall

### SCRIPTURE READING

*“One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: ‘Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!’*

*Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, ‘Don’t you fear God, seeing that you have also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’*

*Jesus replied, ‘I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.’”*

- Luke 23:39-43

### OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

Before you hang the photos people currently on death row in this country and scheduled for execution in 2026. Some have been in prison for decades. Some have had execution dates set and delayed. One was executed two days ago. Can you see a child of God in each face?

### STATISTICS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Approximately 2,100 persons are awaiting execution on death row in The United States.
- The average person on death row waits an average of 19-20 years between sentencing and execution.
- Roughly ¼ of death row inmates die from natural causes or other reasons before their execution can be carried out.

### PRAYER

Creator God, you offer loving grace to *all* your children. Keep me from passing judgment and help me to discover ways in which I may participate in your ongoing liberation of the world. Amen.



## ABANDONMENT

Location: Fellowship Hall  
(by the candle screen)

### SCRIPTURE READING

*“Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.’ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, “I am God’s Son.”’ The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.*

*From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’”*

- Matthew 27:39-46

### OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

Who or what have you forgotten or left behind on your life journey (intentionally or otherwise)? When was a time you felt abandoned? Name the people or places often forsaken on strips of paper and weave them into the candle screen as you pray for each. You might also want to pray for the contributions others have added to the candle screen.

### DEFINITION FOR CONSIDERATION

Forsaken – *The past participle of “forsake,” acting as an adjective to describe someone or something completely abandoned, deserted or left desolate. It implies an often permanent removal of support, companionship or care, leaving the subject helpless or forlorn.*

### PRAYER

Holy Jesus, you know the pain of abandonment, the isolation of the soul. Grant me the wisdom and insight to recognize when individuals and people groups are overlooked or neglected, and the compassion to do something to change it. And in my darkest hours, remind me that there is nothing that can ever separate me from your loving presence. Amen.



## RELATIONSHIP

Location: Coffee Commons

### SCRIPTURE READING

*“Jesus’ mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” - John 19:25b-27*

### WORDS ON IMMIGRATION FOR CONSIDERATION (adapted)

*Can you hear the women weeping?*

*Can you see the families fleeing?*

*Can you feel the pain of the children whose dreams have been interrupted?*

*Women are afraid to send their children to school,*

*Women are afraid to get prenatal care,*

*Women are afraid to take their children to the doctor,*

*Women are afraid to seek help for domestic abuse.*

*Can you hear the women weeping?*

*Not everyone can, not everyone cares,*

*but Jesus can hear the weeping, and Jesus cares.*

*Jesus comforts [all people].*

*I hear the weeping when I walk the streets freely.*

*I hear the weeping in my sleep.*

*I hear the weeping when I close my eyes in prayer.*

*I hear the weeping when I watch the news and read the headlines.*

*How can we become informed citizens who are moved to action? Will you help to bring comfort to the women, or will you wait for someone else to do it?*

- Andrea Kirksey

### QUOTE FOR CONSIDERATION

*“For nothing is fixed,  
forever, forever, forever, it is not fixed.  
The earth is always shifting,  
the light is always changing,  
the sea does not cease to grind down rock.  
Generations do not cease to be born,  
and we are responsible to them  
because we are the only witnesses they have.  
The sea rises, the light fails,  
lovers cling to each other, and children cling to us.  
The moment we cease to hold each other,  
the moment we break faith with one another,  
the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.”*

- James Baldwin

### OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

Consider the grief and tears of a parent and child. Using an eyedropper, add a drop into a bowl to represent the tears of all who grieve or live in fear.

### PRAYER

Holy Jesus, thank you for the people in my life who lift me up like family. I know you weep when families are separated or torn apart by the legal system, violence, fear, injustice, death and so much more. Open my ears to hear the cries of my neighbors and embolden me to bless my community with comfort and challenge, care and action. Amen.