

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

I'm so glad you're taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.
—*Pastor Cathy Rafferty*

Note of Preparation: Tonight is a Service of Tenabrae (“shadows”) in which we will be lighting and extinguishing 12 candles. If it is safe where you are to have lit candles, you may want to find 12 (or just one) candles and a lighter beforehand, and dim the lights wherever you may be,

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we gather this hour as dear friends gathered in an upper room so long ago.

**Like those who first followed you, we come out of deep devotion and tender love,
with grateful hearts for all you have said and done.**

Like those who first followed you, we are at times confused, distracted, self-involved, and despondent.

**Like those who first followed you, we have at times denied, abandoned and betrayed
you.**

Yet still you gather with us to feed us, to serve us, to teach us, to forgive us, and above all to love us into the abundant and eternal life God intends for all.

**And on this night, even as we confront the darkness before us and within us, still
you have promised to lead us.**

As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love and your abiding presence.

Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: “Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow”

Debbie Hubbard

Lighting Candles as We Remember (*if you have candles, please light them now; extinguish one candle after each reading or, if you have just one, extinguish it after the 12th reading*)

We Share the Story of God in Twelve Readings

1 Mark 14:17-21

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?”

²⁰ “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

2 Mark 14:22-25

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. ²⁵ “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

3 Mark 14:26-31

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

²⁷ “You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: “‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” ²⁸ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

²⁹ Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

³⁰ “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

4 Luke 22:24-27

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

5 Mark 14:32-26

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ “*Abba*, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

6 Mark 14:37-42

³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

³⁹ Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

7 Mark 14:43-46

⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

8 Mark 14:47-49

⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

9 Mark 14:50-52

⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

10 Mark 14:53-64

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death.

11 Luke 22:63-65

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. ⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

12 Mark 14:66-72

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰ Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

A time of silent reflection.

John 8:12 (light one candle)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

We Respond to God

As we conclude tonight's time of worship, the invitation is for us to respond by watching and waiting, prayerfully pondering these events, remembering Jesus' long night in Gethsemane, until we gather here again tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. for a Good Friday time of worship, the second of the three holy days.

Music for Going Forth: "Sleep Well, My Brother"

Andre Villoch

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- Does one of the readings, events, or symbols of tonight invite your attention? Sit with it, write or draw, find a token around your home to remind you of it.
- Who in your life has literally fed you? Pray for those whose work it is to feed others (growing, making, delivering, stocking, serving our food, others?).
- Who in your life has literally washed your feet? Pray for those whose work it is to wash others (parents, health care workers, child care workers, funeral home staff, others?).
- How are you experiencing darkness or shadows in your life? Where are the bright spots?
- Imagine waiting and watching with Jesus in the garden. How will you pray with him?
- How will you obey Jesus' command to love one another in one specific way between now and the 7 p.m. Good Friday service?