

**Maundy Thursday Service      April 6, 2023**

**First United Methodist Church of Riverside**

*Theme: This service is very much like the first Last Supper would have been.  
It is a blend of joy and anticipation.*

**PRELUDE:** “I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord” by David M. Cherwien / Robert Phillips, Organist

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Exodus 12:1-4, 14-17 / Sophie Weiss, Liturgist

*The First Passover Instituted*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. <sup>15</sup>Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day shall be cut off from Israel. <sup>16</sup>On the first day you shall hold a solemn assembly, and on the seventh day a solemn assembly; no work shall be done on those days; only what everyone must eat, that alone may be prepared by you. <sup>17</sup>You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread, for on this very day I brought your companies out of the land of Egypt: you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a perpetual ordinance.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by Liturgist

(L) Remember the saving love of God

**(All) For Christ claims us as his own.**

(L) Joy calls us here.

**(All) Come to the table of grace.**

**\*HYMN: #617 “I Come with Joy”** by Brian Wren / All / Led by Yvonne Flagg

**Verse 1**

**I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,  
his life laid down for me.**

Verse 2

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

Verse 3

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

Verse 4

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here,  
we see and praise him here.

Verse 5

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise,  
we'll live and speak his praise.

\*APOSTLES' CREED / All / Led by Liturgist  
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON: "A Community of Joy" / Rev. Roy Riggs

**READING OF PSALM 113 / Led by Liturgist**

(Liturgist) Praise the Lord!

**(People) Praise, O servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord**

(L) Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time forth and for evermore!

**(P) From the rising of the sun to its setting  
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

(L) The Lord is high above all nations,  
God's glory above the heavens!

**(P) Who is like the Lord our God,  
who is seated on high, who looks far down  
upon the heavens and the earth?**

(L) God raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of God's people.

**(P) God gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother of children.  
Praise the Lord!**

**Scripture: Matthew 26:17-19 / Liturgist**

*The Passover with the Disciples*

<sup>17</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' <sup>18</sup>He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."' <sup>19</sup>So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

**\*HYMN: #632 "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"** by Percy Dearmer / Led by Yvonne Flagg

Verse 1

**Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in thy name,  
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.**

Verse 2

**As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.**

### Verse 3

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,  
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

**Anthem: "Remember Me"** by Aaron Adams, Stephen Andrews / Aldersgate Chorale

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

**(All) And also with you.**

(P) Lift up your hearts.

**(All) We lift them to the Lord.**

(P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**(All) It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

(Pastor)

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe.

You created the heavens and earth and saw that it was good.

From the earth you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine.

You formed us in your own image, delivered us from captivity,

fed us manna in the wilderness, made covenant with us,

and set before us the way of life.

Therefore, with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, saying:

**(All)**

**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 of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Most holy and merciful God,

Time and again we turned aside from your way and abused our gifts,

yet you gave us the crowning gift in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Emptying himself, that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry,

healed the afflicted, ate with the scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet, and

gave a holy meal as the pledge of his abiding presence.

On the night he gave himself up for us, at table with those who would desert and deny him, 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; for 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, it remembrance of me.”

Therefore, recalling your Son’s death and resurrection, his ascension and his abiding presence through your Holy Spirit, we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we offer in union with Christ’s sacrifice for us, as a living and holy surrender of ourselves.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may know the presence of the living Christ, be renewed as his body and transformed into his likeness; faithfully serve him in the world; and look forward to his coming in final victory.

Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**COMMUNION VOLUNTARY:** “Humbly I Adore Thee, Verity Unseen” by Donald Johns

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY:** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” by Ronald A. Nelson

**\*SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 26:26-30 (NRSV) / Liturgist

***The Institution of the Lord's Supper***

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' <sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**\*HYMN: #432 "Jesu, Jesu" by Tom Colvin**

**(Refrain)**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.**

**Verse 1**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)**

**Verse 2**

**Neighbors are rich and poor,  
neighbors are black and white,  
neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)**

**Verse 3**

**These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)**

**Verse 4**

**Loving puts us on our knees,  
serving as though we are slaves;  
this is the way we should live with you. (Refrain)**

**Verse 5**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet;  
this is the way we should live with you. (Refrain)**

**BENEDICTION / Rev. Roy Riggs**

**POSTLUDE: "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor" by Johann Ludwig Krebs**

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