

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 17TH, 2025 | MAUNDY THURSDAY | 6:00PM



AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing and pray and participate in liturgy.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

IF CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

IF HYMN

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

AMERICAN FOLK HYMN

¹What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this,
O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful
curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

²When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking
down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

³To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing: to
God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing,
I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

⁴And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity, I'll
sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 22:7 - 21

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

We give thanks for God's work of creation and salvation.

It is our greatest joy, Creator God, to give you thanks in every time and place.

You made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them - sun, moon, and stars, mountains, rivers, and trees, animals and people. You even made us in your own image to love and serve you, and you show us your mercy every day. Therefore with all people and all creation, we shout your praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory and blessing are yours, Saving God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. Born a child like us, he grew up to be your servant. Jesus taught your truth. He welcomed, healed, forgave, and loved people. In the end, he suffered and died to save us from our sin. And God raised him up, to give us a new life. We praise you that before he died, our Savior gave us this holy meal to eat together until he comes again.

Why do we eat bread at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

The same night, Jesus took the cup, saying: this cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

What do we remember at this table?

We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. And remembering, we offer ourselves and our gifts for the world. According to our Lord's commandment:

We remember Christ's life and death, we proclaim Christ's resurrection, we await Christ's coming in glory.

What do we ask at this table?

Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking together we may be made one with Christ and with one another. At this table we ask for unity in Christ our Lord, and we ask for strength to serve the world in your name until the day you make all things new. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

You may choose to pull a piece from the common loaf or select a pre-cut piece of gluten free bread from the tray on the communion table. You may dip your bread into the common cup or choose an individual cup from the tray on the communion table. If you need communion brought to you, we will gladly do so.

I HYMN

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

¹ Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

² Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

³ Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH & A READING OF PSALM 22

After celebrating Communion on Maundy Thursday, we “strip the paraments,” to symbolize the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. Removing the paraments and any other items on the Communion table represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the church remains stripped and empty as we remember Christ died and was laid in the tomb. On Easter Sunday, the return of white paraments represent the alleluia of resurrection. It is traditional to leave in silence after the stripping of the church. Our congregation is notoriously not good at that, and silence would make cleaning up after the potluck quite difficult. We'll hold silence as the paraments are removed, and a chime will indicate the close of worship.

SILENCE

CLOSING CHIME

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! WORSHIP LEADERS: REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL,
PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI, EMMA LANDI, OLIVIA LANDI AND REBEKAH LANDI
PIANIST: ELIZABETH O'LEARY

Baskets are available at the exits if you would like to give an offering.

HOLY WEEK

Good Friday April 18th **Holy Saturday** April 19th Chapel Open at Scottish Argyle Cemetery

Easter Sunday April 20th **8am** Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery

9am Pancake Breakfast* **9:15am** Egg Hunt at WCPC

10am Worship in the Sanctuary with Handbell Choir & Communion

**Breakfast is at Willow Creek in the Fellowship Hall and provided by the Session. All are welcome!*

“A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ”

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

For more information about our staff and volunteers, visit our website. The Church Office is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8:30am - 3pm. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the church office.

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