

# March 28, 2024 Maundy Thursday Service of Word & Table

# **†** Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude Galilee Lani Smith

# Greeting

The Lord be with you **And also with you.** 

### Welcome and Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service. **Thanks be to God!** 

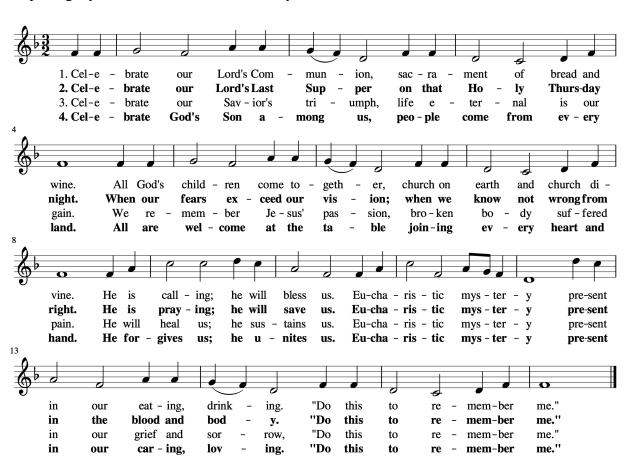
# **†** Call to Worship

This is a day of remembrance for us.

We lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Throughout the generations, we have received and handed on to others what the Lord has given to us: water for washing; the towel of service; the bread of his body; the cup of the new covenant; proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again.

Let us worship God!

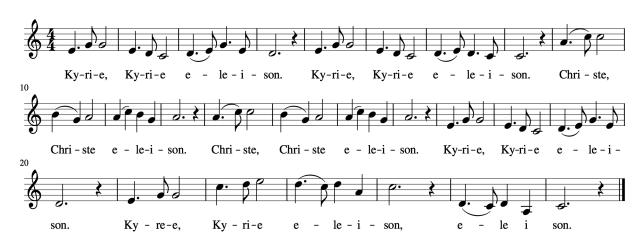


## **†** Invocation

Merciful Savior, we have traveled this long, dusty Lenten journey. Our feet are tired, dirty, aching, and calloused. You have shown us Your love by becoming a humble servant. Humble us when we try to travel without You. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. Humble us when we believe some work is below us. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. Humble us when we are too proud to accept help, or care, or love. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. Humble us when we do not fully receive the gift of Your amazing and bountiful grace. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. **Amen.** 

Kyrie eleison Christe eleison Kyrie eleison

**†** Kyrie Eleison Kyrie NEW WORLD



### Old Testament Lesson Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. 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. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 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.



I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

Antiphon

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar."

Antiphon

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

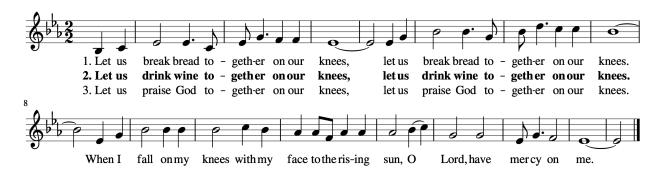
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.** 

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Antiphon



# Epistle Lesson

## 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



# **†** Gospel Lesson

### John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Reverend Dr. Greg Gray

# **†** Response to the Word **United Church of Christ Statement of Faith**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

### Call to Confession

Siblings in Christ, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

#### Confession

Most merciful God, we your Church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray; and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Pardon

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.

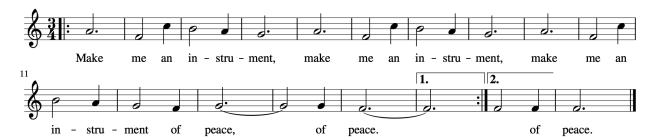
But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

# **†** Passing of the Peace

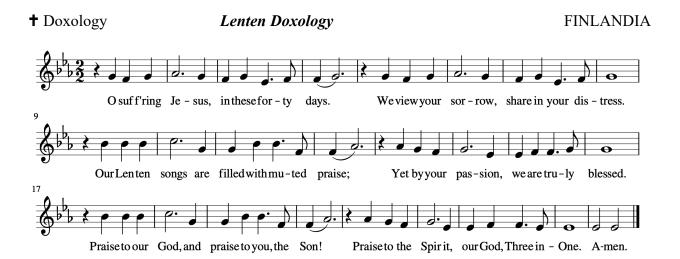
The peace of Christ be with you **And also with you.** 



# Invitation to the Offering

The psalmist asks, what shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me? And then declares: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord; I will pay my vows and offer thanksgiving in the presence of the congregation. With gratitude for God's bounty to us, we join the psalmist, praising God with our offerings.

Offertory Mount of Olives Dennis Eliot



# **†** Prayer of Dedication

We are your servants, O God, for you have loosed all other bonds that held us captive. In freedom, we follow you. In gratitude, we praise you. Celebrating all that you have done for us in Christ, we bring before you tithes and offerings, bread and wine, asking you to add your blessing so that all that we have and all that we are may be used in blessing others. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.** 

## Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

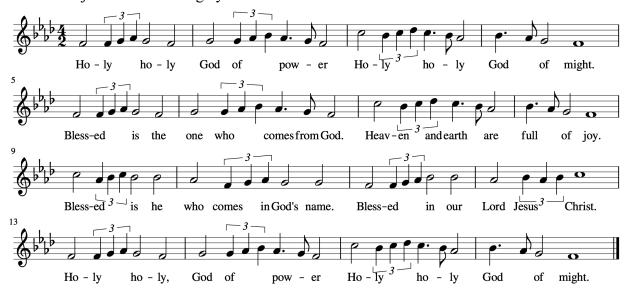
We lift them up to the Lord.

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:



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 gifts. 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, ate 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:



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.



And now, with the confidence of children of God, we are bold to pray:

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

#### Fraction

We break this bread remembering the brokenness of our world and declaring our hope of wholeness and shalom is in Christ.

We pour this wine, remembering the pain and bloodshed of our world and declaring our hope in the overflowing love of Christ.

# Giving of the Bread and Cup

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion, we are all guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to all who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people. This is a joyful feast for all the people of God.

We will receive communion at stations by intinction. Please come forward to one of the communion stations by the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the chalice, partake, and return to your seat by the outside aisles. All cups have non-alcoholic grape juice.

# Prayer after Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery, in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### **†** Benediction

Postlude Gethsemane Fred B. Binckes

#### WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH COVENANT

We, Enfield UCC, commit ourselves to providing and promoting education, activities, and resources for individuals and families, as well as advocating for legislative action and collaborating with other mental health organizations. To that end, we joyously extend our church's compassionate welcome and love to members and non-members alike who experience mental illnesses or are touched by them.

### WELCOME STATEMENT

We covenant with God and each other to live as Jesus has taught. Following God's example, we strive to be a Christian Community welcoming you no matter who you are. No matter your physical or mental ability, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, or economic status, you are truly welcome. We acknowledge past hurts individuals may have experienced and look to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for all who want to know God in Christ. This covenant includes the right to participate equally and fully in all aspects of the life and ministry of this congregation. In a spirit of understanding, we strive for collaboration as we seek to become the fully inclusive community of faith that God calls us to be.

#### ENFIELD UCC GUN POLICY

Gun violence continues to exist in the United States as a public health issue, one that requires reform in policy and culture. Enfield UCC is a gun-free zone, and no one may bring a firearm on the premises unless explicitly authorized by the pastor and/or moderator.

The United Church of Christ is a proponent of gun safety and gun control and supports policies including:

- strengthen the licensing and registration of handgun transfers
- restrict firearm possession by persons convicted of violent crimes and by juveniles
- limit handgun purchases to one per month
- strengthen regulation of gun dealers
- increase civil and criminal liability for misuse of firearms
- prohibit semiautomatic assault weapons, Saturday night specials, explosive ammunition and large capacity magazines
- require gun safety devices
- require training in the safe use of firearms as a condition of licensing

We encourage everyone to be in touch with legislators, urging them to pass legislation that restricts the sale of firearms.