



Maundy Thursday

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

April 1, 2021

***“I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another” -Jesus***
(John 13.35)

Prelude

Mark Behnken, organ

“Traditional Spiritual” -*adapted by Anna Laura Page*

Welcome and Lighting Candles

Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor and Teacher

Opening Song

Saba Smith, vocalist

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees. (*Refrain*)

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (*Refrain*)

Refrain

*When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.*

Prayer of Confession

Keith M. Haithcock

Holy One, we acknowledge that we often fail to see the ways you reveal yourself to us each day. We have not pursued you or listened for your voice. We are preoccupied with ourselves. We long for a new beginning and to draw closer to you and others. With your grace we turn to come home to you.

Assurance of God's Grace

Be assured children of God, that God's grace overflows for you and the whole world!
Amen.

A Sung Response

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Saba Smith, vocalist

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, My God, have mercy on me.

Mark 14.12-26

Sue Jelinek

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Keith M. Haithcock

This table is open to all who seek to follow Jesus the Christ.

Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may.

Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance.

Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit.

Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share.

It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

Words of Institution

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
(Mark 14.22-25)

Prayer of Consecration

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing.

We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. **Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, by coming to your table we receive more gifts than we deserve. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us so we may willingly serve as Christ served. **Amen.**

An Offering of Music and our Gifts

St. John Ensemble

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" -*Amy Lynne Engelsdorfer*

~

Thank you for your financial support to the mission and ministry of the Church!

US mail: 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073; Online: StJohnChurch.net



Telling the Story of Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet

John 13.1-17 Sue Jelinek and Dorothy Gatch

It was now the day before the Passover festival. Jesus and his disciples were at supper. So Jesus rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. Then Jesus poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him:

Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?

Jesus answered Peter:

You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later.

Peter declared:

Never at any time will you wash my feet!

Jesus answered:

If I do not wash your feet, you will no longer be my disciple.

Simon Peter answered:

Lord, do not only wash my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!

Jesus said:

Anyone who has taken a bath is completely clean and does not have to wash, other than the feet.

After washing their feet, Jesus put the outer garment back on, returned to his place at the table, and said:

Do you understand what I have just done for you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you.

Silence is kept for reflection before the lesson is concluded.

Jesus said:

I am telling you the truth: No slave is greater than the master who is served, and no messenger is greater than the one who sends the message. Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice.

Maundy Thursday Reflection

Keith M. Haithcock

Prayer for Humility and Service

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus the Christ.

We thank you for Christ's life of service.

We thank you for symbols of love and humility.

We ask that you strengthen us for the service to which you call us, that we may find in serving others, in washing feet, and in acts of mercy, the fullness of life that we see in Jesus. **Amen.**

Going Forth

Sarah Palm, clarinet, Eric Knechtges, piano

"Were You There?" -*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Eric Knechtges*

Today's worship leaders: those listed above and, Edward Goode, editing and production; Eric Knechtges, ensemble editing; Linda Schuster, administrative support.

Copyrights, Notes & Acknowledgments: All items are used with permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-712481.

Opening Song and A Sung Response "Let Us Break Bread Together" from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 The Pilgrim Press (#330); **Prayer of Confession and Assurance of God's Grace** by Keith M. Haithcock; **Mark 14.12-26** from the *New Revised Standard Version of Holy Scripture*, © 1989 by The Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches; **The Lord's Supper**: Invitation, Prayer of Consecration, Prayer for Humility and Service, and **Telling the Story of Jesus Washing the Disciples Feet** (John 13.1-17 paraphrased) from *Book of Worship*, © 1986 United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, New York, p.194-195, p.84, p.196, and p.201-203, adapted by Keith M. Haithcock.