

# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

www.rpccerie.org

## Maundy Thursday A Service of Holy Communion

March 29, 2018

Worship Theme: *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread... after supper he took the cup... For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.* —from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Gathering Music:** *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*.....Crüger/Burkhardt  
Shirley Wilson, Organist

After gathering for worship, the congregation should sit in silent meditation.

**Prelude:** *Ah, Holy Jesus*.....Verdi/Cherwien

### The Setting of the Lord's Table

As the Season of Lent draws to a close this evening, we come together to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion—also known as the Supper of the Lord, or Lord's Supper—which was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ at his Last Supper with His disciples the night before His crucifixion. We now call this night "Maundy Thursday."

Tonight the Lord's Table stands before us. As the congregation listens to the Prelude, preparation stewards take the cloth, the candles, the bread, and the cup and put them in place. As they walk to the Table, they represent us believers. For we, too, must each take hold individually of Christ's gift of forgiveness and new life.

When it is time for us to eat and drink this Sacrament, the elements of this holy feast are served to us as we sit in our pews. We accept what is provided, even as God Himself has brought salvation to us through the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son, and we simply accept His precious gift.

Tonight let us participate prayerfully and expectantly in this solemn event where we are spiritually fed and given drink, in remembrance of the price Christ paid for our salvation.

**\*Call to Worship** (responsively)..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Congregation: Happy are they who take refuge in Him.**

Liturgist: Let us bring our praise to God.

(...continued over...)

**\*Hymn No. 98:** *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*..... PASSION CHORALE

**A Reading:** "James and John" ..... Dillon Gearing and Robert LeSuer  
(Based on Luke 22:24 and John 13:1-5)

**Confession** (personal/silently and corporate/unison) ..... Thomas Brooks

We will begin by silently confessing our personal sins.  
Then, we will join in a unison prayer of corporate confession.

**God of Life, we admit to You and to each other that we have not always lived lives of love. We have lost patience and been rude. We have been irritable and insisted on our own way. We have even let love end.**

**Forgive us and heal us, dear God, through Jesus Christ, Your Love Incarnate. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** (responsively) ..... Thomas Brooks

**Congregation: God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.**

Liturgist: Therefore, we are assured that our sins are forgiven, that we are brought to new life in Christ.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

The congregation will please stand, remain in place, but turn toward each other.

**\*Passing of the Peace** (responsively) ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: With the joy of knowing His love, let us greet each other in Jesus' name.

**Congregation: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.**

**A Reading:** "Judas and Peter" ..... Dillon Gearing and Robert LeSuer  
(Based on John 13:21-27; Luke 22:31-34; Matthew 26:36-41)

**\*Hymn of Preparation No. 97:** *Go to Dark Gethsemane*..... REDHEAD

## The Holy Communion

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**..... Rev. Jim Moelk

**Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer** *(debts/debtors)*

**Words of Institution**

**Distribution of the Bread:** *The body of Christ, given for you.*

As you pass the bread, please say to the next person:  
"The body of Christ, given for you."

Upon receipt of the bread, please eat it without waiting, as a sign of your individual and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Distribution of the Cup:** *The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

As you pass the cup, please say to the next person:  
"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Upon receipt of the cup, please hold it until all have been served so that we can partake of the cup together, as a sign of our oneness in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate rows for disposal of the used communion cups

**Prayer Following Communion**..... Rev. Jim Moelk

**The Words of Jesus** ..... Jim and Jaye Moelk,  
Susan and Thomas Brooks  
*(Taken from John 14-16)*

**Benediction** ..... Rev. Jim Moelk

As our Maundy Thursday Service concludes, we invite the congregation to please leave in silence and contemplation.

This service will conclude on Sunday Morning at 11:00 a.m. with the festival celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us that day in honor of our Redeeming Lord.

\* *Congregation please stand, if you are able to do so.*



**THE AGONY**

by George Herbert (1593-1633)

Philosophers have measured mountains,  
Fathom'd the depths of seas, of states, and kings,  
Walk'd with a staff to heaven, and traced fountains  
But there are two vast, spacious things,  
The which to measure it doth more behave:  
Yet few there are that sound them; Sin and Love.

Who would know Sin, let him repair  
Unto Mount Olivet; there shall he see  
A man, so wrung with pains, that all his hair,  
His skin, his garments, bloody be.  
Sin is that Press and Vice, which forceth pain  
To hunt his cruel food through every vein.

Who knows not Love, let him assay,  
And taste that juice, which on the cross a pike  
Did set again abroad; then let him say  
If ever he did taste the like.  
Love is that liquor sweet and most divine,  
Which my God feels as blood; but I, as wine.

source: Gilfillan, George, ed. *The Poetical Works Of George Herbert*.  
Edinburgh: James Nichol Publishing Company, 1853.