

MAUNDY THURSDAY

"Love one another as I have loved you." - John 13:34



Prelude

Rink Organ Prelude

Approach to God (John 1:1, 1:3-4, 3:16-17, 12:44-46)

In the beginning was the Word,
the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was present to God
from the beginning.

Through the Word
all things came into being,
and apart from the Word
nothing came into being
that has come into being.

In the Word was life,
and that was humanity's light—
a Light that shines in the darkness,
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Yes, God so loved the world
as to give us the Only Begotten One,
so that whoever believes may not die.
but have eternal life.

Jesus proclaimed publicly:
"Whoever believes in me
believes not so much in me
as the One who sent me;
and whoever sees me
sees the One who sent me.

Hymn “The Servant Song”

Will you let me be your servant?

Let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace

to let you be my servant, too.

I will hold the Christ light for you

In the nighttime of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you

Speak the peace we long to hear.

Unison Response

In the Word was life,

and that was humanity’s light—

a Light that shines in the darkness,

a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

“We bring that light to the shadows...”

The Chancel Choir “Come, Heavy Souls”

Text from Thomas Washburne; Music by Robert Emore

“Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

⁸⁻¹³ Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time...and you still don’t know me?

Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God.
How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’?
Don’t you believe that I am in Abba God and Abba God is in me?
These words I speak are not spoken of myself;
it is Abba God, living in me,
who is accomplishing the works of God.
The truth of the matter is that anyone who has faith in me
will do the works I do—and greater works besides.
Why? Because I go to Abba God,
and whatever you ask in my name I will do,
so that God may be glorified in me.

¹⁶⁻²⁰ I will ask the One who sent me
to give you another Paraclete, another Helper
to be with you always—the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot accept
since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her;
but you can recognize the Spirit because She remains with you
and will be within you.
I won’t leave you orphaned; I will come back to you.

A little while now and the world will see me no more;
but you’ll see me; because I live, and you will live as well.
On that day you’ll know that I am in God,
and you are in me, and I am in you.”

Hymn **“Ah, Holy Jesus”** **New Century Hymnal #218** **1, 3**

**Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,
that mortal has judgment on you descended?
By foes derided by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!**

**For me, kind Jesus, was your incarnation,
your mortal sorrow, your life’s oblation,
your death of anguish and your bitter passion,
for my salvation.**

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit and Arrest

Matthew 26:36-50

³⁶⁻⁴⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane and said to the disciples, “Stay here and pray.” Jesus took along Peter, James and John and started to feel grief and anguish. Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death. Please, stay here, and stay awake with me.”

Jesus went on a little further and fell prostrate in prayer: “Abba, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. But not what I want – what you want.”

When Jesus returned to the disciples, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you stay awake with me for even an hour? Be on guard, and pray that you may not undergo trial. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Withdrawing a second time, Jesus prayed, “Abba, if this cup cannot pass me by without my drinking it, your will be done!”

Once more Jesus returned and found the disciples asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. Jesus left them again, withdrawing a bit further and prayed for a third time, saying the same words as before. Finally, Jesus returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping? Still taking your rest? The hour is upon us — the Chosen One is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us be on our way! Look, the betrayer is here!”

⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰ While Jesus was still speaking Judas one of the Twelve arrived — accompanied by a great crowd with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas had arranged to give them a signal, “Whomever I embrace is the one,” he had said; “take hold of him.” He immediately went over to Jesus and said, “Shalom, Rabbi!” And embraced him.

Jesus said to Judas, “Friend, just do what you’re here to do!” At that moment the crowd surrounded them and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

The Chancel Choir

“God So Loved the World”

by John Stainer

The Shadow of the Denial

Luke 22:54-62

⁵⁴⁻⁶² They arrested Jesus and led him away, arriving at the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance and sat down in the midst of those who had kindled a fire in the courtyard and were sitting around it. One of the high priest’s attendants saw Peter sitting there at the fire, and she stared at him and said, “This one was with Jesus, too.”

But Peter denied it. “I don’t know him!” He said.

A little while later, someone else noticed Peter and remarked, “You’re one of them too!”

But Peter said, "No, I am not."

About an hour later, someone else insisted, "Surely this fellow was with them, too. He even talks like a Galilean."

"I don't even know what you were talking about!" Peter said.

Just as Peter was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered Jesus saying, "Before a rooster crows today, you'll deny me three times." Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" New Century Hymnal #226 vs. 1, 3

**O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, your only crown,
How pale you are with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does your visage languish which once was bright as morn!**

**What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest friend;
For this your dying sorrow, your pity without end?
May I be yours forever; and though my days be few,
O Savior, let me never outlive my love for you!**

¹⁻¹⁵ As soon as it was daybreak the chief priests, the elders and the religious scholars in the whole Sanhedrin reached a decision. They bound Jesus and let him away, and handed him over to Pilate, who interrogated him. "Are you the King of the Jews?" He asked.

Jesus responded, "You are the one who is saying it."

The chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate interrogated Jesus again: "Surely you have some answer? See how many accusations they are hurling against you!" But to Pilate's astonishment, Jesus made no response.

Now whenever there was a festival, Pilate would release one prisoner they asked for. There was a prisoner named Barabbas who was jailed along with the rioters who had committed murder in the uprising. When the crowd came to ask that Pilate honor the custom, Pilate rejoined, "Do you want me to release for you the "King of the Jews?" Pilate was aware, of course, that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. But the chief priests incited the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. Pilate again asked them, "What am I to do with the one you call king of the Jews?"

The people shouted back, "Crucify him!"

"Why?" Pilate asked. "What crime has he committed?"

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them, and, after having Jesus scourged, handed Jesus over to the crowd.

Chancel Choir "O Come and Mourn"

Early American Tune
Arranged by Hal Hopson

The Shadow of Mockery

Matthew 27:27-31

²⁷⁻³¹ The governor's soldiers took Jesus inside the Praetorian and assembled the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet military cloak.

Weaving a crown out of thorns, they pressed it on his head and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock Jesus by dropping to their knees, saying, "All hail, King of the Jews . They also spat upon him.

Afterwards they took hold of the reed and struck Jesus on the head. Finally, when they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes and led him off to crucifixion.

Hymn Journey to Gethsemane New Century Hymnal #219 v. 2

**Follow them to Pilate's hall, view the One of life arraigned;
Crowned with thorns and mocked by all, faithfully this pain sustained;
Greater still than shame or loss; Jesus now must face the cross**

The Shadow of the Crucifixion

Luke 23:32-43

³²⁻⁴³ Two others were also led off with Jesus, criminals who were to be put to death. When they had reached the place called "Golgotha" - The Skull, they crucified Jesus there – together with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Hanging there with the criminals, Jesus said, "Abba, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."

The people stood there watching. The rulers jeered Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself—if he really is the Messiah of God, the Chosen One, let him save himself!"

The soldiers also mocked him. They served Jesus sour wine and said, "If you are really the King of the Jews (Nazarēnus, Rex Iūdaeōm – INRI), save yourself!"

Even one of the criminals who hung there beside him insulted Jesus, saying "Are you really the Messiah? Then save yourself — and us!"

But the other criminal hanging besides Jesus answered the other one with the rebuke, "Don't you even fear God? We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this one has done nothing wrong!"

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory."

Jesus replied, "The truth is, today you'll be with me in paradise!"

Chancel Choir "Agnus Dei" from *Requiem* by John Rutter

The Shadow of the Death Mark 15:33-39

³³⁻³⁹ When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside and lasted until about three in the afternoon. At three, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, " Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani? " which means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

A few of the bystanders who heard it remarked, "Listen! He is calling on Elijah!" Someone ran and soaked a sponge in sour wine and stuck it on a reed to try to make Jesus drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion who stood guard over Jesus, seeing how he died, declared, " Clearly, this was God's Own!"

A Tenebrae Service of Shadows

Please remain in the Sanctuary if you wish to pray or meditate following this evening's service.

When you are ready, you are invited to join us in the Vestry for a time of repast and community.

Good Friday

Our Sanctuary will be open from Noon – 3:00 PM for quiet prayer and meditation.

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Meditation on the Great South Bay
Sayville Ferry, 41 River Road, Free Parking
We depart the dock at 5:55 A.M. Sharp

Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall from 7:15 A.M. – 8:15 A.M.

Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 A.M.

Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn following worship.

More information at www.sayvilleucc.org

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Maundy Thursday Worship – A Tenebrae Service
April 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM
www.sayvilleucc.org