

abandoned, and nailed to a cross. Knowing all of this full well he prayed, "Not my will, but yours." Then he stood up for all that he had lived for. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

**All: Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi" and kissed him. Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.**

**MUSICAL REFLECTION** "Here Yet Awhile" Bach, arr. Hadler  
from *St. Matthew Passion*

**Reader:** There was a brief skirmish at the arrest, but his disciples quickly scattered. Peter, who had only hours before promised to go with Jesus to prison, even death, followed from a distance. During the trial, Peter remained hidden in the shadows. First a servant girl saw him and said, "This man was also with him."

**All: "Woman, I do not know him."**

**Pastor:** A little later someone else, on seeing him said, "You also are one of them."

**All: "Man, I am not."**

**Pastor:** Then about an hour later, still another kept insisting, "Surely this man was with him; for he is a Galilean."

**All: "I do not know what you are talking about. I do not know Jesus."**

**Reader:** At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him, and he wept bitterly.

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

**FINAL READING** Mark 15:25-39

## PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE

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<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall	<b>Reader:</b> Dave Williams
<b>Organ:</b> Sharon Heinrich	<b>Director of Music:</b> Tom Foley
<b>Associate Director:</b> Mike Elkins	<b>Sound:</b> Doug Thorn, Jim Heinrich

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**GOOD FRIDAY:** Tenebrae service : 7:30 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Sunrise: 7 a.m., Breakfast: 8 a.m., Worship: 10 a.m.



## The United Church of Christ (Congregational) MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE April 2, 2026—7:30 p.m.

### WELCOME

**INTROIT** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" Bach, edited by Holler

**Pastor:** Jesus spent his life teaching us the meaning of love. Through word and deed Jesus showed us how to love God and to love one another. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He invited the women and the children and the tax collectors and the sinners to come to his table. He broke bread with the least and the lost and shared the cup of redemption with them all. . . . He brought a simple message: Love God, love yourself, and love one another.

**All: We gather in the name of Jesus and remember the way that he showed us. We gather to remember not just his death, but his life.**

**HYMN 118** "His Name is Wonderful"  
*His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord;  
He is the mighty King,  
Master of everything, His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,  
Almighty God is He;*

*Bow down before Him, Love and adore Him;  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
Bow down before Him, Love and adore Him;  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.*

**Reader:** The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we are not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of him. He threatens their comfort. He threatens their way of life. He threatens their power. They will come for him. First though, we will gather. We gather with Jesus and his closest friends. We gather with those that called him teacher, Rabbi, friend. We gather to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

**All: God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God who reigns, not Pharaoh. Our God saved once. God saves forevermore.**

**HYMN 314**

“What Wondrous Love”

*What 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.*

*When 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.*

*To 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.*

**Reader:** Even as they prepared to share sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that he was asking much from these men, and he knew that they would fail him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry at some slight? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman “wasted” when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas’ heart, but Jesus knew that he would be betrayed. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked:

**All:** I would never betray you, Lord. It’s not me, is it?

### **CLEANSING OUR SPIRIT**

**Pastor:** Just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. As they gathered one last time, the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

**Reader:** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

**Pastor:** Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

**All:** No, you shall never wash my feet.

**Pastor:** Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

**All:** Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!

**Pastor:** Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”

### **TIME OF REPENTANCE**

**Reader:** After the Passover meal had been shared, the disciples began to argue over which one would be the greatest. Even here, at the end of their time together, they did not seem to understand what Jesus had been teaching them all along. He reminded them that to be great in the Kingdom of God meant to serve. After Jesus’ talk of betrayal, the disciples’ argument, and Jesus’ rebuke of them, the disciples seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:

**All:** Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.

**Reader:** And Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me.”

**HYMN 315**

“Were You There” (vv. 1-3)

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? O-----  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? O-----  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? O-----  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

**Pastor:** Afterwards, Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray for him, for he wanted to be alone. There, Jesus prayed. He asked his friends to keep watch, but they kept falling asleep. He prayed for another way out. He prayed in anguish. He prayed as a man who could feel pain, who would be hurt by betrayal, who would be scarred by the scourge, and would bleed when nails were driven into his arms and legs. He prayed as a man who knew that if he followed God’s will, he would be charged, convicted, mocked, humiliated,