



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023 + 7:00 p.m.



detail from The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

A Word About Tonight's Service

Tonight's service will be dramatic. It begins with a lot of light and celebration as we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his miracles and teachings in the week that follows, and the joyful Passover meal he shared with his friends. We will take part in the ancient ritual of foot washing, a true moment of barrier-breaking and equality among people. Then dining at the table of grace, we recall Christ's death and resurrection as we feast in expectation of the coming Kingdom of God.

But then the evening turns dark. Following the meal, we travel with Jesus to the garden where he prays in agony for a reprieve from suffering. Accepting God's will, we watch as Judas betrays the Savior and Peter rushes forward in a valiant flash to defend his friend – we may want to do the same. Jesus speaks peace and healing even in his most desperate moments, and is taken away to stand trial before the authorities. There is no more bravery here, no more valiant defense – all of his friends betray him and the world is plunged into darkness.

As we stand in the courtyards of everyday life, what will we say when we are asked, "Do you know him?"

Chiming the Hour of Worship

Prelude

"The Mount of Olives"

Dennis Elliott

Greeting

*Call to Worship

God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In him is salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead; by him we are redeemed and set free.

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, who redeems us from sin and death!

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Let us worship God together!

***Hymn #342**

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Evening Prayer *and* The Lord’s Prayer

Receive my prayer as incense, O God.

My uplifted hands as an evening sacrifice.

Master you are lifted up, and we bow before your cross to receive your blessings; “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

We are humbled by your forgiveness.

“Today you will be with me in paradise.”

We are awed by your promise.

“Mother, this is your son - and she is your mother.”

We would love each other as you have loved us.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Stay with us, God, that we may stand by all those in need.

“I am thirsty.”

Make us generous to share with those who hunger and thirst.

“It is finished.”

Complete your work in us, and use us according to your will.

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

We give ourselves to you in trust and peace.

Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For he is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose again for us, Jesus, our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying...

**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.**



The Tenebrae



Statement About The Service

The Light of the World

The Calling of the Twelve

The Events of Holy Week

The Upper Room

The Prophecy

Silent Prayer and Reflection

Anthem

“The Gift of Love”

Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed,
by this we worship and are freed.
Amen.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy

to give you thanks and praise,

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You bring forth bread from the earth,

and create the fruit of the vine.

You made us in your image,

and freed us from the bonds of slavery.

You claimed us as your people,

and made covenant to be our God.

You fed us manna in the wilderness,

and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey.

When we forgot you, and our faith was weak,

you spoke through prophets,

calling us to turn again to your ways.

Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with the celestial choirs

and with all the faithful of every time and place,

who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven

and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
whom you sent to deliver us from
the bondage of death and slavery to sin.
In humility he descends from your heights,
to kneel in obedience to love's commands.
He who is boundless takes on the bondage of our sin.
He who is free takes our place in death's prison.
In the deserts of our wanderings, he sustains us,
giving us his body as manna for our weariness.
The cup of suffering which he drank
has become for us the cup of salvation.

In his death, he ransomed us from death's dominion;
in his resurrection, he opened the way to eternal life.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
we take this bread and this cup from the gifts
you have given us, and celebrate with joy
the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

According to his commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of
bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ
and with all who are baptized in his name,
that we may be one in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit
to live as love commands.

Bound to Christ,

set us free for joyful obedience and glad service.

As Jesus gave his life for ours, help us to live our lives for others
with humility and persistent courage.

Give us strength to serve you faithfully until
the promised day of resurrection, when, with the redeemed of all
the ages, we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ,

all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,

with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” st. 1

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s power;
your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour;
turn not from His grief away, learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

The Mount of Olives

The Betrayal

The Denial

The Trial

Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” st. 2

**Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of Life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs His soul
sustained!**

**Shun not suffering, shame or loss; Learn from Christ to bear
the cross.**

The Trial, continued

Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” st. 3

**Calvary’s mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet
mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete:
“It is finished” - hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

Litany of The Cross

Behold the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

Come, let us worship.

Behold the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

Come, let us worship.

Behold the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

Come, let us worship.

The Crucifixion

The Abandonment

The Darkness

Sending “Even Now” by Ann Weems

*She stands beneath his dying and will not be persuaded to leave,
despite the urgings of others.*

*They huddle against her in an effort to hold her against the pain,
but she stands erect, unleaning, her eyes upon his face.*

*From the hillside the sounds of weeping and wailing hang heavy in the
air, but she who held him in a stable in Bethlehem stands silent
beneath his cross in Jerusalem,
her heart pondering still, her soul magnifying the Lord,
her spirit praising God,
knowing even now that she is blessed among women.*

All Depart In Silence