

MAUNDY Thursday



*Please use this devotional guide to prepare you
to receive communion at the altar rail*

CALL to WORSHIP

Welcome to you who call upon the name of Christ!
We come here today to recall the story of the night
Jesus was betrayed. Are you prepared to come to the
feast of Jesus the Christ, whose life was poured out for
you? Are you able to watch with Jesus at prayer in the
garden—indeed, to struggle yourselves to be in unity
with God's will for you? By the grace of God, we can
be prepared. Then let us praise God, even in this hour
of darkness:

**God of all grace and steadfast love, greatly is Your
name to be praised in all the earth. Bring us to this
feast of remembrance with open hearts!**

A READING from the GOSPELS

John 6:35-40

³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever
comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in
Me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen
Me and still you do not believe. ³⁷All those the Father gives
Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never
drive away. ⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do
My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹And this
is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all
those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last
day. ⁴⁰For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to
the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will
raise them up at the last day."

CONTINUED ON BACK

A REFLECTION on COMMUNION

*On their own, the bread and cup are nothing.
To become a foretaste and a promise of love made real
and a world made whole, they need a story and
a blessing and a people who will believe...*

It would not have been God's table,
if they hadn't all been gathered around it:
the betrayer and the friend,
the power-hungry and the justice seeker,
the faithful and the fickle.

When Jesus poured the wine, and the bread was broken;
when everyone could eat -
the outcast and the beloved,
the arrogant and the gracious,
the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by,
the table became a foretaste of love made real
and of a world made whole.

Your company at the table of Jesus will include
the betrayer and the beloved,
the wrong-doer and the wrongly done by.

It would not be God's table without them.

And the promise is that when you are together,
when you tell the story and give the blessing,
when you break the bread and pour the cup,
you will discover a foretaste of love made real
and of a world made whole.

*Now, please spend some time, in silent prayer,
to prepare to receive communion.*

*Whenever you are ready, please come forward
and the Pastor will hand you the bread and cup,
packaged together for everyone's safety.*

THE SACRAMENT of COMMUNION

This is the body of Christ, given for you; take and eat.
This is the blood of Christ, shed for you; take and drink.

After receiving communion, please throw the cup away.