



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FOR HOLY THURSDAY EVENING
April 1, 2021 at 7pm

On this night Christians commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13:1 –17) and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26 –29; Mark 14:22 –25; Luke 22:13 –20; 1 Corinthians 11:23 –25).

The ancient practice of stripping the Lord's table and sanctuary following communion is a vivid and dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane and what followed. Designated persons pick up the cloths on the Lord's table and the pulpit and other hangings, banners, candlesticks, and decorations and quietly carry them from the sanctuary. This may be done in silence. The church then remains bare until the Easter Vigil, when the process is reversed.

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

GREETING

HYMN

No. 618 - Let Us Break Bread Together

**Let us break bread together on our knees, (*on our knees*)
let us break bread together on our knees. (*on our knees*)**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (*on me*)**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees, (*on our knees*)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (*on our knees*)**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (*on me*)**

**Let us praise God together on our knees, (*on our knees*)
let us praise God together on our knees. (*on our knees*)**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (*on me*)**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

My sisters and brothers,

Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

Most merciful God,

**we your Church confess
that often our spirit has not been that of Christ.
Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us,
where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips
and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him,
forgive us, we pray;
and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.
But Christ suffered and died for us,
was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us,
and continues to intercede for us.
Believe the good news:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 12:1 –14

Todd Thomas

¹²The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:1 –17, 31b –35

Ed McKinney

¹³Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to

wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

REFLECTION

Rev. Ed McKinney

HYMN

No. 432 - Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

(Refrain)

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the
neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. *(refrain)***

**Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away. *(refrain)***

**These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *(refrain)***

**Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you. *(refrain)***

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. *(refrain)***

OFFERING - *Special Offering, Project AGAPE*

We believe that God is calling us to remember people outside the United States, specifically Armenia. Project AGAPE (American Greater Armenian Partnership Efforts) is a collaborative effort of both United Methodist Conferences in NC and the Armenian Apostolic Church. Armenia is not only dealing with the pandemic, but all aggression by neighboring countries: Turkey, Syria, and Azerbaijan.

Lent is a good time to commit to giving to a project to help those in need. One way is to collect coins and donate the money to a cause like Project AGAPE. Each day of Lent, the guide will remind us of all we have and how little others may have. Each Sunday, pray as a family for the people of Armenia and the people who will benefit from your gifts. During the week of Easter, deliver, mail, or electronically give your Lenten offering to Stokesdale UMC so we can forward it on to Project AGAPE.

GIVING

1. Give on-line by clicking the online-giving tab on our web-site. Go to www.stokesdaleumc.org and click on the "GIVE" tab. If you would like to learn more about the on-line giving option contact Pastor Ed or Linda at 336-643-4850
2. Bring your check to the church office on Monday or Thursday from 9am-2pm
3. Mail your check to Stokesdale United Methodist Church, P O Box 38, Stokesdale, NC 27357
4. Set up on-line bill pay through your bank to Stokesdale United Methodist Church.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ed McKinney & Rev. Allen Ridenour

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through you Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

HYMN

No. 299 - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE / THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

A Service of Tenebrae, or "Shadows," is based on a twelfth-century late night/early morning service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ.

The readings given below are by James H. Charlesworth. He accurately translates John 18:1–19:42, with special sensitivity to Jews, Judaism, Jesus' Jewishness, and the Jewish origins of Christianity.

DEPART IN PEACE AND SILENCE