



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**Maundy Thursday
April 6, 2023**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you
this evening.

Musicians: Andrew Karkosiak and Katherine O'Neill

RINGING OF THE BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all
generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Teach us, Lord, to count our days that we may gain a
wise heart.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP – *Please join me in the call to
worship.*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes with humility.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes with love.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes with joy.

Hosanna in the highest!

Let us worship Christ, who has come to us in our hour of need!

CALL TO CONFESSION

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, writes: If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interest, but the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

All of this, Christ did for you, and for me and for the whole cosmos – long before we knew anything about it. Resting in that assurance, we may confess freely before God and one another, first in silence.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION – *please join me in the unison prayer of confession.*

O Lord, you desire truth in our very being;

**teach us wisdom in our secret heart.
Send out your light, send out your truth,
and let them lead us to our home.
Take from us the weight of our sin,
that we might make room for the Spirit of truth.
If we prepare a dwelling place, that Spirit will abide
within us,
and the truth will set our spirits free.
Then shall we love not only with words;
then we shall love with actions and with truth,
and we shall know that our service is faithful.
O Lord, you desire truth in our very being;
teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Paul also wrote to the Romans: I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word 'Maundy' in 'Maundy Thursday' comes from the Latin word Mandatum, which means commandment – from the Mandatum Novum, the New Commandment, that Jesus gives to his disciples on this night.

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

We love, because Christ first loved us. In Christ, we are forgiven, we are accepted, and everything is made new! Believe this good news, and live in its peace.

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I'm found

Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come

This grace that brought me safe thus far

And grace will lead me home

When we've been here ten thousand years

Bright, shining as the sun

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we first begun

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I'm found

Was blind but now I see

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, give us the wisdom of your Spirit to understand and receive the depth and breadth of the love that Christ showers upon us. Bless this reading of your Word that we might be transformed by its grace. Amen.

FIRST READING*John 13:1-17*

Now 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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus 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.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After 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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done

to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

MEDITATION & REFLECTION

Jesus, Servant

SECOND READING

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little 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.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

COMMUNION

In the early church, this meal was called a ‘love feast’ – and it was indeed a fest, every time the people gathered, everyone brought what they had for a giant potluck. We just get a taste, a small reminder of the feast that Jesus shared with his disciples, the feast we share today as the people God, and the feast that awaits us when the kingdom of God has come in its fullness.

This is Christ’s table, and so all are welcome.

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...

...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.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts..

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

There are cups of bread and juice placed around the tables. At this time, the first person at the front of the table will be served. Once you are served, please turn to the person next to you and serve them, saying these words, "This is Christ's body and blood, broken and shed for you."

During Communion, our wonderful musicians will be playing the hymn, "This is the Night." Please join in singing as you wish.

This is the Night (verses 1, 3, 5)

This is the night, dear friends, the night for weeping, when powers of darkness overcome the day, the night the faithful mourn the weight of evil whereby our sins the Son of Man betray.

This night Christ institutes his holy supper, blest food and drink for heart and soul and mind; this night injustice joins its hand to treason's, and buys the ransom-price of humankind.

O make us sharers, Savior, of your Passion, that we may share your glory that shall be; let us pass through these three dark nights of sorrow to Easter's laughter and its liberty.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION – *Let us pray.*

Gracious God, you love the whole world. Help us love the whole world. You love your church. Help us love your church. You love us. Help us love one another. In Christ's name, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

BLESSING

Blessing Poem by Jan Richardson

*As if you could stop this blessing from washing over
you.*

*As if you could turn it back, could return it from your
body to the bowl to the pitcher, from the pitcher to the
hand that set this blessing on its way.*

As if you could change the course by which this blessing flows.

As if you could control how it pours over you – unbidden, unsought, unasked,

Yet startling in the way it matches the need you did not know you had.

As if you could become undrenched.

As if you could resist gathering it up in your two hands and letting your body follow the arc.

BENEDICTION

Beloved people of God, Judas has already left the table and the events of this night are already set in motion – so as we turn to face the cross, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Creator, and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.

Go in peace.

POSTLUDE



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thursday, April 6	6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 7	7:00pm	Tenebrae Service
Sunday, April 9	9:15am	Easter Breakfast
	10:00am	Releasing of Doves
	10:30am	Worship/Fellowship
	5:00pm	Presbytery Event

Staff

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Hours

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

General Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday
9am-1pm

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