

*The First Congregational  
Church in Worcester*

*Maundy Thursday Worship*



*April 1, 2021*

# *The First Congregational Church in Worcester*

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 1, 2021

Prelude

*O Sacred Head ~ Callahan*

Call to Worship & Invocation

\*Opening Hymn

*Go To Dark Gethsemane*

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see;  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb  
There' adoring at His feet,  
Mark the miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete:  
"It is finished!" Hear the cry;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Used by Permission CCLI #1480719

Gospel Reading

*Matthew 26:17-30*

Meditation

## **Sharing the Lord's Supper**

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 thanks and praise.**

Let us come to the table of communion, not because we must, but because we may.

**Let us sit together in humility and thanksgiving rather than in pride or possessiveness.**

Let us confess, not that we are righteous, but that we love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to remember him.

**Let us come, not that we are strong, but that we are needy; not that we have any claim on Christ, but that he invites us to receive his grace and experience his presence.**

Let us worthily partake, that he may be made known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread; giving thanks to you, he broke the bread and offered it to his disciples, saying: "Take this and eat; this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

Taking a cup, again he gave thanks to you, shared the cup with his disciples and said: "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Drink from this, all of you, this is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

**After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by his followers and beaten. He stood trial and was put to death on a cross. Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, he was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.**

Through him you bestow the gift of your Spirit, uniting your church, empowering its mission, and leading us into the new creation you have promised. Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

**Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed through his blood, serving and reconciling all people to you. Remember your church, scattered upon the face of the earth; gather it in unity and preserve it in truth. Remember the saints who have gone before us.**

In communion with them and with all creation, we worship and glorify you praying the words you have taught us:

**“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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 gifts of God for the people of God.

*At the breaking of the bread*

We break the bread and eat:

**to share in the body of Christ.**

So we who eat are one:

**for we share one bread.**

*At the sharing of the cup*

We give thanks for the cup and drink:

**to share in the blood of Christ. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, “Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.”

**Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

**Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

\*Hymn

*Ah Holy Jesus*

<p>Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,          that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?          By foes derided, by thine own rejected,          O most afflicted!</p>	<p>Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,          I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,          think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,          not my deserving.</p>
---	--

Used by Permission CCLI #1480719

### The Service of Tenebrae

**O gracious Light, pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold your vesper light, we sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Christ of God, O giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Shadow of Betrayal	Matthew 26:20-25	Shadow of Desertion	Matthew 26:31-35
Agony of the Soul	Luke 22:39-44	Unshared Vigil	Mark 14:32-41
“Father, the hour is come”	John 17:1-6	“That they may all be one”	John 17:15-22
Arrest in the Garden	John 18:1-5	Shadow of the Cross	Mark 15:16-20
	The Word was God	John 1:1-4, 14,10,12,3:19	

Final Prayer

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

*The people are invited to sit in the darkness and meditate on the passion of Christ. When you are ready, please leave the sanctuary in reverence and silence.*



Participants

Rev. Robert H. Jackson, Pastor  
Scott M. Yonker, Minister of Music

**Please join us for worship**

Good Friday, April 2, 2021 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 10:00am.