

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**April 1, 2020 6:30 PM**  
**Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae**

Unison Welcome

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

Announcements

Prelude

Opening Words

*from the UCC Book of Worship*

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O God.

**The night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.**

Musical Meditation

Collect

*from the UCC Book of Worship*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Gracious God,  
you give us the sun to illuminate the day  
and the moon and stars to shine by night.  
Kindle in us the flame of your love  
that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light  
and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.**

Lighting of the Candles

Confession of Sin

*adapted from the UCC Book of Worship*

Siblings in Christ, we are called to be children of the day and not children of the night.

**Let us approach the throne of grace that we may receive mercy.**

Let us pray:

**Gracious God,  
our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.  
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open us to a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.  
Amen.**

Kyrie

*from the UCC Book of Worship*

Holy God,  
Holy and mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,

**Have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

*from the UCC Book of Worship*

This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you: God is light.

**If we walk in the light as Christ is the light, we have communion with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.**

Anthem

*"Walk with Me, Lord"*

Douglas E. Wagner

Invitation

*adapted from the UCC Book of Worship*

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table, then, siblings and sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Elements

*We share in the sacrament of Holy Communion using the elements of bread and juice provided to us or that we have in our homes. Our lives are consecrated as holy; so too are the elements that we partake of when we are gathered and when we are scattered. Please eat of the bread and drink of the cup as invited by Pastor Caroline.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*from the UCC Book of Worship*

**O God, by coming to your table we receive more gifts than we deserve.  
We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life  
and in whom we are bound in covenant.  
Renew us so we may willingly serve as Christ served. Amen.**

First Reading

Shadow of Betrayal

Matthew 26:20-25

Second Reading

Shadow of Desertion

Matthew 26:31-35

Third Reading

Agony of the Soul

Luke 22:39-44

Fourth Reading

Unshared Vigil

Mark 14:32-41

Fifth Reading

"Father, the hour is come"

John 17:1-6

Sixth Reading

"That they may all be one"

John 17:15-22

Seventh Reading

Arrest in the Garden

John 18:1-5

Eighth Reading

Shadow of the Cross

Mark 15:16-20

The Final Reading

The Word was God

John 1:1-4, 10, 12, 3:19,  
paraphrased

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

Departure

*We end our time together in silence.*

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**Special Thanks** to those who made our worship today possible.

**Worship Resources:**

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