

Maundy Thursday Worship
April 21, 2011 7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

CALL TO WORSHIP, OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN 92 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

*CONFESSION AND PARDON (In Unison)

Holy, forgiving, and ever-loving Creator, we confess how easily we give in to fear and impatience. Like disciples of old, we find ourselves in great enthusiasm about Your Spirit's power to attract love and justice, but then doubts overcome us and we return to old ways. We confess we neglect to return to our True Selves, breathing in love, power, and eternal life. We allow death around us and news reports to discourage our spirits. So help us this day of remembrance, to breathe and drink in anew the everlasting Spirit of Life, our True Selves, our oneness with You, our Creator.

(Silence)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*THE PEACE (Quietly exchange a sign of peace.)

*HYMN 2179 *Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)*

Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity; God will dwell with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING, Isaiah 53:4-9 "Suffering Servant"

Here ends the reading; **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE: 98 *O Sacred Head Now Wounded, vs. 1*

RESPONSORY PSALM 116:12-19 "Hearing My Prayer"

I love the Lord, because he hears me; he listen to my prayers. He listens to me every time I call to him.

What can I offer the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will bring a wine offering to the LORD, to thank him for saving me.

*All who are able may stand

In the assembly of all his people I will give him what I have promised. How painful it is to the LORD when one of his people dies!

I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did. You have saved me from death. I will give you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and offer my prayer to you.

In the assembly of all your people, in the sanctuary of your Temple in Jerusalem, I will give you what I have promised.

Praise the LORD!

RESPONSE 98 *O Sacred Head Now Wounded, vs. 2*

SECOND READING, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 "The Lord's Death"

Here ends the reading; **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE 98 *O Sacred Head Now Wounded, vs. 3*

*THE GOSPEL, JOHN 13:31-35 "The New Commandment"
Before: **Glory to you, O Lord.**
After: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTIONS

*THE AFFIRMATION *In the Depths of Your Being* (In Unison)
In the depths of your being is your own sacred center. It is the still, quiet chamber deep within where you are one with the Father. Through this connection is your own indigenous power. This is a place you must go alone, for it is your sacred ground. The very act of being there is the essence of prayer. —from, *Love Without End* by Glenda Green

*HYMN 97 *Go To Dark Gethsemane*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

...We are grateful for your assurance of love amidst human betrayal, care amidst hatred, respect amidst oppression.

And so, with Elizabeth who prophesied your birth, Martha who confessed you as the Christ, and James and John who sought to follow in your way, we praise you saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy, hope-breathing God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

...And thus we take this bread and wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy our Oneness with You. May our lives now proclaim the freedom and love we have through You as we praise you saying:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

...And now we say the old prayer Jesus left his disciples praying:

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, 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 bread

Pouring wine

(As participants come forward for the sacrament; they may stop for anointing.)

STRIPPING OF THE CHANCEL

Reading of Psalm 22

(There is no benediction. All depart in silence.)