

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CAPE
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235 Broadway St., Cape Girardeau, MO--www.firstpccape.org
The Rev. Dr. Kim L. Nelson, Pastor



Holy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
~~A Service of Remembrance and Communion~~

Musical Meditation

Welcome

One: We meet together as friends of Jesus, who has invited us to share this meal. We remember that the Faith has been passed on to us by those in every generation who dared to follow Jesus. We remember too that we belong to a worldwide family of Christians. Let us greet one another as sisters and brothers in God's family.

The Peace

One: Remembering Jesus' commandment to love one another, let us greet one another with signs of peace. May the peace of God be with you.

All: And may God's peace be also with you.

Call to Worship

One: Jesus spent his life teaching us the meaning of love. Through word and deed Jesus showed us how to love God and to love one another. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He invited the women and the children and the tax collectors and the sinners to come to his table. He broke bread with the least and the lost and shared the cup of redemption with them all. He crossed boundaries of race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class. He challenged religious authority, and he scoffed at pomposity and self-absorbed grandeur. He called out the hypocrites. He admonished the scribes and the Pharisees for their hardened hearts. He brought a simple message: Love God, love yourself, and love one another.

All: We gather in the name of Jesus and remember the way that he showed us. We gather to remember not just his death, but his life.

Hymn *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* # 415

Prayer of Confession

All: The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we are not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark, night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of Jesus. Like them, He threatens our

comfort. He threatens our way of life. He threatens our power. They will come for him. First though, we will gather. We gather with Jesus and his closest friends.

A Time for Silence

Words of Assurance

One: We gather with those that called him teacher, Rabbi, friend. We gather for the Passover meal, to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

All: God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God who reigns, not the Pharaoh. Our God saved once. God saves forevermore.

Prayer for Understanding God's Word *(adapted from Exodus 12, John 13)*

All: God of memory and hope, God of Exodus and Calvary, as you led the Israelites into a new life of freedom, lead us into a new life of loving service as we hear your word. Fill our hearts with love, and our minds with understanding. Amen.

New Testament Lesson Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 11:23-26 *The Lord's Supper* (also found in Matthew 26.26-29; Mark 14.22-25; Luke 22.14-20)

^{11:23} I have already told you what the Lord Jesus did on the night he was betrayed. And it came from the Lord himself.

He took some bread in his hands. ²⁴ Then after he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this and remember me."

²⁵ After the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and said, "This is my blood, and with it God makes his new agreement with you. Drink this and remember me."

²⁶ The Lord meant that when you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you tell about his death until he comes. (Contemporary English Version)

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

The Last Supper

LUKE 22:7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."

¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:7-19 (NIV)

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Remembering

Pastor Kim Nelson

A Moment of Contemplation

One: On the night in which Jesus was betrayed by his friend, he took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Choir Reflection

In Remembrance

#521

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

All: By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, as we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father now and forever.

Holy Communion

Hymn

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken # 498

One: Even as they were sharing this sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that he was asking much from these men, and he knew that they would fail him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry at some slight? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman "wasted" when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas' heart, but Jesus knew that he would be betrayed. And what did Jesus do with the man that would betray him? He broke bread with him. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked:

All: I would never betray you, Lord. It's not me, is it?

One: When the holy meal had been shared, the disciples began to argue over which one would be the greatest. Even here, at the end of their time together, they did not seem to understand what Jesus had been teaching them all along. He reminded them that to be great in the Kingdom of God meant to serve. After Jesus' talk of betrayal, the disciples' argument, and Jesus' rebuke of them, the disciples seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:

All: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

One: And Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me."

A Moment of Contemplation

One: Afterwards, Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray for him, for he wanted to be alone. There, Jesus prayed. He asked his friends to keep watch, but they kept falling asleep. He prayed for another way out. He prayed in anguish. He prayed as a man who could feel pain, who would be hurt by betrayal, who would be scarred by the scourge, and would bleed when nails were driven into his arms and legs. He prayed as a man who knew that if he followed God's will, he would be charged, convicted, mocked, humiliated, abandoned, and nailed to a cross. Knowing all of this full well he prayed, "Not my will, but yours." Then he stood up for all that he had lived for. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come to into the time of trial"

All: Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi" and kissed him. Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

Hymn *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (verses 1, 2, & 3 only) # 220

One: There was a brief skirmish at the arrest, but his disciples quickly scattered. Peter, who had only hours before promised to go with Jesus to prison, even death, followed from a distance. During the trial, Peter remained hidden in the shadows. First a servant girl saw him and said, "This man was also with him."

All: "I do not know him."

One: A little later someone else, on seeing him said, "You also are one of them."

All: "I am not."

One: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man was with him; for he is a Galilean."

All: "I do not know what you are talking about. I do not know Jesus."

One: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him, and he wept bitterly.

Hymn *Were You There?* # 228

Departing Quietly