

WELCOME TO

Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215

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Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

April 6, 2023

7:30p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

"In the Presence of All"

Meditation before worship: Enter this room, all those who prepare with a heavy heart. Approach the table, you who make rooms ready, who serve with what you have at hand. Sit elbow to elbow, those with secrets burdening your hearts. Eat and drink deeply, you who wear grief and betrayal plainly upon your face. We are welcome here. Christ Jesus made room for all, and there is space at the table still. We are none of us strangers at the table. Sit. Come as you are, weary, sheltered, beloved.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

Jesus, you who walked among us and lived so radically that in the end, even your friends betrayed you – give us Courage. Gift us with breath that fills our bellies and soothes the panicked fluttering of our hearts. Jesus, you who wept as we weep, who ate and drank, who prayed loudly and alone, who spent a lifetime filled with doubt, but didn't allow that to stop you from speaking up and acting out – grant us Strength. Move not only our mouths to prayers of justice, but our bodies to action. Jesus, you who brought sight and life, who calmed storms and fed the masses, you who welcomed all who were excluded – gift us Rest. Guide us to those who will

share the load so that when the pain becomes too much to bear, we may lay down knowing the good work will go on. Amen

*Opening Hymn: "Abide with Me" (verses 1-3) p.642

Call to Prayer

May Christ's passion for what is right fill your heart And flow out through our hands. May we serve others with a joyful spirit And accept their gifts wholeheartedly in return. Let us remember we are never alone. God's grace will bind us, and our prayers revive us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Spirit of Christ, we come to you with our hands outstretched, hearts heavy with dread. We hold up to you the grief in our hearts – the personal failings, the endemic injustices, the catastrophic disasters – and the weight of it all brings us to our knees.

All: We need to be reminded that you see us through a lens of love and compassion. With every breath, we invite in your forgiveness and encouragement. We stumble, and you catch us. We yearn, and you listen. We hunger, and you fill us up. Amen

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17

A Symbolic Washing of Feet

Prayer

Spirit of Christ, we pause to extend to you what feels most vulnerable in each of us. We ask you to pour out compassion over us as you did water over the feet of your disciples. We may be prideful, uncomfortable, anxious, depressed. We may be grieving or overwhelmed, but we ask for your help attuning ourselves with your guidance, strength, and hope. Amen

*Hymn: "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?" insert

Gathering to Remember the Last Supper

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:17-30

Invitation

We gather to remember the Passover meal. This night was a tradition, a predictable holiness for the Jewish people, and a yearly rededication for and of liberation.

Prayer of Consecration

Place a pebble in our shoe, God, that we may recall the pain of betrayal on a holy night. Let us walk with Christ and his disciples, taste this precious meal, and reflect on our place in the story. We are each of us Judas, who should be scorned and threatened, who should be turned away from the table, and yet, he remained, just as we are asked to do. We cannot bring peace without liberation, nor forgiveness without grace. We cannot taste this bread or cup without remembering the bitterness of many choices we've made. We cannot share it together without being reminded that we have a place here, and it is as a cherished member of this faith, and this family. We are loved, no matter what. This bread and cup bind us together. May it fill us with the spirit of Christ and empower us so to break the chains that keep us all from being free. Amen

*The Lord's Prayer (sung)

p.631

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

(As the Bread is lifted up, please name the joys of this last year. As the Cup is lifted up, please name people, living or dead, whom you would bring to the covenant meal.)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God, come for all things are ready.

(The ushers will distribute the bread first. Please hold it until all are served when we partake together. White grape juice and purple wine are available)

*Closing Hymn: "Here O My Lord"

insert

*Benediction

We leave this time together surrounded by the figures in this story. Christ and his disciples walk with us as shadows of what we have done and what we can yet choose to do. The story is not finished. Tonight we must lay down and weep, but soon, soon we will be lifted up again.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude



In the Presence of All: Service Prayers and Liturgy for Maundy Thursday Year A was written by Maria Mankin.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs.

We have Bulletin Magnifier Sheets if needed. They can be found on the sound system.

Mask Wearing - Consistory has agreed that individuals can make their own decision as to the wearing of masks during church services. If you find yourself testing positive for COVID, **please contact the church office** so we can alert others who may have been in contact with you during time spent at church. Thank you.

Good Friday – 2:00pm Cross Walk – meet at Mennonite Church,
Walk to Old Zionsville UCC for a brief worship service
7:30pm Service of Darkness Worship at Old Zionsville UCC

Easter Sunday – 7:30am Communion Worship
8:30am Continental Breakfast
9:00am Sunday School & Confirmation
9:30am Egg Hunt
10:15am Communion Worship

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

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Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24



- 1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser- vant, let me be as Christ to you'
 2 We are pil- grims on a jour-ney, we are trav- elers on the road
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad- ow of your fear:
 4 I will weep when you are weep- ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav- en we shall find such har- mo- ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser- vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth- er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor- row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
 Born of all we've known to- geth- er of Christ's love and ag- o- ny.

*(repeat stanza)*

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.
 Richard Gillard, 1
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; ad

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The Church of Christ

HORATIUS BONAR, 1855

10. 10. 10. 10.

MORECAMBE
FREDERICK C. ATKINSON, 1870*Rather slowly, with deep reverence*

1. Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face; Here would I touch and
 2. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God, Here drink with Thee the
 3. This is the hour of ban-quet and of song; This is the heaven-ly
 4. I have no help but Thine, nor do I need An - oth - er arm save

han - dle things un - seen, Here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 roy - al wine of heaven; Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 ta - blespread for me: Here let me feast, and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 Thine to lean up - on: It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;

And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
 Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
 The brief, bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.
 My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone. A-MEN.