

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

7:00 p.m. Worship

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino



“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” *John 13:14-15*

Rev. Brian S. Symonds
Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Wiens
Co-Presiding

REFLECTION BEFORE the SERVICE

“In his final night with his friends and followers, Jesus shows the fullness of his love by removing his robe, kneeling, and washing the disciples’ feet. Violence is at the door and betrayal is at the table, and yet, Jesus’ response is abundant love. As he makes his way around the room, Jesus comes to Simon Peter who protests, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Emphatically, Peter initially rejects Jesus’ act of love. Like Peter, we may also question if God loves us and will care for us, even at the brink of death. In these final hours of accompanying Jesus to his grave, can we seek a posture of trust? Can we allow ourselves to be embraced and loved—by our neighbor and by God? Will we care for one another, washing each other’s feet as Jesus commands? In the turbulent events that are to follow, will we remember to show our love?”

by Rev. Danielle Shroyer

PRELUDE

SILENT PROCESSION

MOVEMENT 1 – THE FONT

CALL to WORSHIP

A call to worship is a call to presence.

✠ **We long to be fully present here, and to feel God’s presence here.**

Notice the space around us, the way it looks, smells, and sounds.

✠ **With all our senses, we recognize a sacred space and our belonging in it.**

We gather as good creation, wonderfully made.

✠ **We join our bodies into one body as we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

HYMN 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

OPENING RITUAL

In a few minutes, we’ll hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet on the night of his betrayal and arrest. It is a story of deep intimacy and sacred connection. It is also a story about human resistance to God’s grace and our discomfort with the ways that Jesus demands the disruption of hierarchies. In this story, Simon Peter first objects to Jesus’s plan to wash his feet. Jesus does not rebuke him, but he does insist, for he knows what is to come.

As we prepare to lay down our burdens before God in confession, we place our trust in God’s desire to know us and be with us. As we enter into the sacred story of John’s gospel, let us take a few moments to notice our feet. Take off your shoes if you wish. Wiggle your toes. Plant your feet firmly on the ground. As you experience these sensations, consider the wonder of God, who meets us not only from on high but also kneeling at our feet.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Confession returns us to our bodies by reminding us that God claims us, exactly as we are. Through repentance, we name that which we have left undone and ask for the help of God and our community to seek repair, restoration, and renewal. Let us pray together our prayer of confession:

✠ **Loving God, you pour out grace upon us exactly as we are, but we confess we are suspicious and react from fear of scarcity. You invite us to take our shoes off and receive the care our bodies need, but we sit on our heels. We sort bodies into worthy and unworthy ones to mask our insecurities. We reject and punish fat bodies, disabled bodies, transgender bodies, and racialized bodies— even when these bodies are our very own. God, remind us that we are made in your image. Help us learn to receive from your abundance so we can share all that we have with others. Let us see that the cups we longingly hold out are already full. May they overflow so that all will have enough!**

As he does with Peter in the footwashing, Jesus transforms our confusion and rejection into joy and connection. With God’s help and mercy, we can reciprocate abundance with one another and with Creation. In Jesus Christ we are loved and befriended by God.

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE 204

Stay with Me

Jacques Berthier

ANTHEM

Lamb of God¹

Arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy, Who on the cross didst suffer, Patient still and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer; Our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken; Have mercy on us, O Jesu!

¹ Text: N. Decius. 1531. Music: F. Melius Christiansen. © 1933 Augsburg Publishing House. Reprinted by permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

FIRST SCRIPTURE, John 13:1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

SERMON

Seeking: Rev. Brian S. Symonds
Will You Wash My Feet?

REMEMBRANCE of BAPTISM

With simple elements and simple acts, Jesus flipped the scripts of power to bring about new possibilities for God's love in the world. Before his betrayal and death, Jesus touched his followers and sealed their connection. Jesus taught us to wash one another's feet so that we might witness each other's goodness and be made clean. Through the waters of baptism, God claims us as God's own and marks the calling for our lives onto our bodies. Together, we will remember our baptisms.

First, let us pray:

✠ **God who poured forth water, God who formed each one of us, we give you thanks for the sacrament of Baptism. Allow the cool drip of water on our bodies to bring us closer to you so that we might live as your people, with justice, kindness, and humility. As we remember your promises to us, renew in us a heart of compassion for others and help us recognize your presence in all whom we meet. Amen.**

At this time, we invite you to receive anointing.

RESPONSIVE HYMN 698 *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

John L. Bell

MOVEMENT 2 – THE TABLE

OFFERING

Through the sacraments, God meets us in physical space, offering God's self to us again and again. In a spirit of grateful response, we offer what we have to meet the needs of our neighbors, to serve Creation, and to glorify God. Let us give our tithes and offerings.

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

Here, at this table, Christ is the host.

Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him,

Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him.

This is the table where Christ offers to make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Come: it is Christ himself who invites you.

SURSUM CORDA

God be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✠ **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

✠ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYERS of THANKSGIVING / OUR LORD'S PRAYER

God who took on flesh and lived among us, we greet you in worship.

We greet you as a Creator who made us good in our bodies; we greet you as a Redeemer who was perfectly divine and totally human; we

greet you as a Sustainer, an advocate, a helper who surrounds us in all our ways and all our days. We come in our bodies of all sizes, races, genders, abilities, sexualities, ages, and appearances, so that we might join with your body as we encounter you tangibly, through bread and wine. Through this joyful feast, you fill our spirits to overflowing.

As you nourish us through this holy meal, leave us hungry for your Kin-dom. Leave us thirsty for the justice that you pour out on the world. Let us encounter the bodies around us. Let us see you in the faces of strangers and friends, taste you in the sourness of grapes, hear you in the creaks of the sanctuary and the whisper of the breeze. Through Holy Communion, teach us how to be for others as you are for us: sustaining help, loving accompaniment, eternal hope.

Help us to embrace the mystery of the sacrament as the symbolic and literal blur together until all that remains is your presence with us. We do not come to the Table with perfect understanding. Some of us come with child-like faith; some of us wrestle with questions and doubts; some of us bear wounds that make us suspicious of this act. With your grace we trust the sacred possibilities that become tangible when we eat the bread and drink from the cup. We have hope that in doing this, we might gain a glimpse of all that you offer to us. We give thanks for the familiarity of rituals and ask that we would continuously notice the possibilities you offer in them. Be with us as we pray the familiar prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

✠ **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.**

WORDS of INSTITUTION

Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. The Table of the joyful feast is not our Table but God's. Nothing you do, nothing you say, nothing about you can prevent you from partaking, for in communion God reveals the wholeness of who we are together and with God. So, as you receive this joyful feast, come exactly as you are. There is more than enough. Come, for all is ready.

WE SHARE GOD'S GIFTS

(Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle. The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free bread can be found at the station by the pulpit. There will be rovers to bring the elements to you if you do not wish to come forward. We sing as we commune.)

SUNG PRAYERS

As we go forward, as we wait and pray before & after, we sing our prayers together. The refrains are sung over & over as we make them our own.

SUNG REFRAIN 544 *Bless the Lord, My Soul*² Jacques Berthier

**Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life...**

SUNG REFRAIN 294 *Within Our Darkest Night*³ Jacques Berthier

**Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.
Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.**

PRAYER after COMMUNION

✠ **Holy Mystery, through communion we unite our bodies with your body, and in unity we gain strength and hope. We give thanks for your transforming love. Like the sacraments, we know that love is a doing, and so we ask for your help to turn this nourishment into love for all we meet. Amen.**

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MOVEMENT 3 – THE WORLD

SECOND SCRIPTURE, John 13:33-35

“Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

PRAYERS of RECONCILIATION

God among us,
When we cry out for justice, you hear us.
When we fall to our knees, you witness us.
When we lean into your comfort, you hold us.
When we lose our way, you guide us.
Hear our prayers. Stay with us here
as we seek your way toward hope and wholeness.

We name, O God, that at times it is hard to stay loving
in the face of cruelty, neglect, and harm.
Yet even when Jesus knew his friends would betray and abandon
him, he showed us
how to center our whole selves in your love
instead of the hatred of people and the injustice of systems of power.
May we go and do likewise, as he called us to do,
so that our love for others will be a testimony to all you have done in
our lives.

Through the life and ministry of Jesus,
you taught us how to love fiercely,
how to honor one another fully,
and how to serve with humility and kindness.
Through grace, you join us together as one body.
Be with us today and every day as we seek
to pour out love as disciples of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

BENEDICTION

Jesus chose to use his final hours to establish intimate and profound physical connections with his friends. In the midst of this connection, he offered a new commandment: to love others as he

loves us. This is not an abstract, sentimental love. This is bread-breaking, foot-washing, messy love. We have visited the font, we have been nourished at the Table, and now we go out into the world to live out Jesus's commandment. As we leave this place, may the presence of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer fill the nooks and crannies of our lives.

Go in love!

✘ **We go out together in love. Amen.**

Please leave this service in silence, as we anticipate the death of Jesus and recall his suffering. We wait together in hope for Christ, the light of the world, who will return to us on Easter.

We invite you to Easter Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

Thoughts and Meditations

