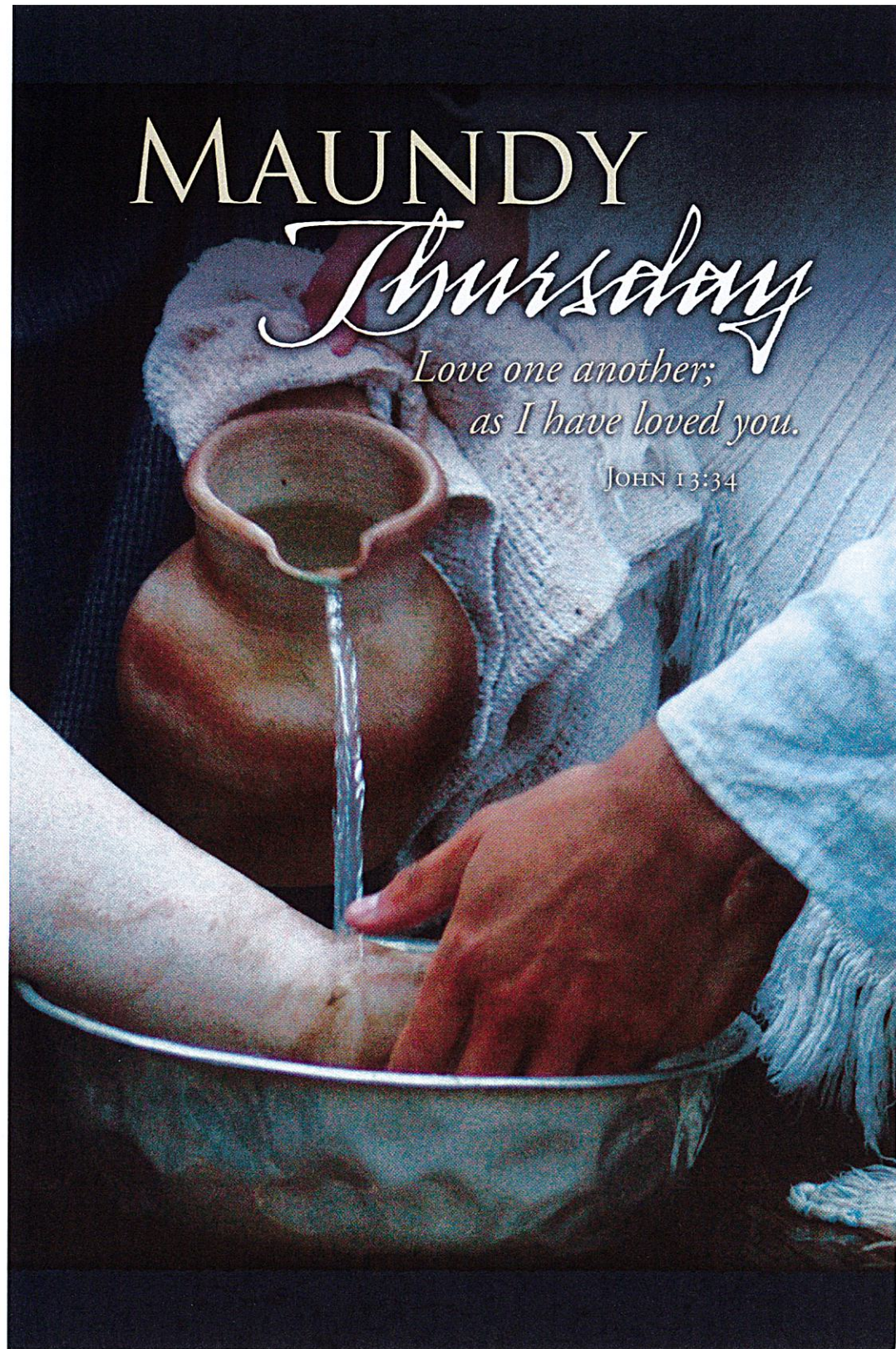


MAUNDY *Thursday*

*Love one another;
as I have loved you.*

JOHN 13:34



St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

1000 S Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 7:00 PM

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to be a community of faith and a voice of hope following Jesus' way of love and service.

www.stjohnsuccmd.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit Congregation reads text in *bold italic*.

Lighting of the Presence Candle

In lighting this candle, we acknowledge that:

God is here, now, everywhere, always.

+Invocation

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

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.

+Opening Hymn: As We Gather At Your Table NCH #332

The Readings

Matthew 26:20-25

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

Matthew 26:31-35

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Mark 14: 32-41

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough!

John 17:1-6

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me

from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

John 17:15-22

“I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

John 18: 1-5

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

Mark 15: 16-20

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

+ John 1: 1-4; 14, 10, 12

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

+Hymn of Reflection: Come Share the Lord FWS #2269

Silent Meditation

God be with you.

And with you also

Let us pray

Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine 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.

Let us give praise to God.

O Gracious Light, pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed. Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold your vesper light, we sing your praises, Holy God, one with us in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Christ of God, O giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Let us open ourselves to God's mercy.

We carry many burdens through the world, some of them we hide from you and from each other. For those things that burden us, grant us the mercy of your love and understanding and let us not judge ourselves in ways that hide your presence from us. May we learn to express love rather than judgment for those things that cause us anger or for those things which we fear. Help us accept the things we cannot change and grant us grace for the life ahead of us that we continue to grow in love and awareness of your continuous presence.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

We come to this table knowing that Jesus instituted the sacrament of communion at a Passover meal, through his call for us to remember him, and in remembering him we recognize that he revealed to us a God of truth and love, a God of presence, our God of mercy and forgiveness.

Blessing of the Elements

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of bread and drink, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war anymore.

The Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. We share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We do this in remembrance of him, for we believe Christ is the host. Now, let all who wish to share in this meal, partake, for God's table is ready.

Hymn During Communion: Let Us Break Bread Together
NCH #330

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

Gluten free elements are available

*The trays of covenant include – inner circle of grape juice
the outer circles are wine.*

Parents, please help your children in selecting.

Please hold the elements and we will commune together.

Words for partaking the bread: The bread of life

Words for partaking the wine: A cup to remember

Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Please take communion cup and dispose of it in the
Narthex after worship.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the gifts we have received during this communion of remembrance. We are sustained by the spiritual power of your presence. Your presence strengthens us, gives us hope, inspires us to share your love. May we grow in love, may we grow in our ability to see and understand your truth. Help us to hold sacred the covenant promised by Jesus that you are in us, and we are in you, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 in the light, we have communion with one another. The love of Jesus Christ protects us and transforms us and transforms us for the sake of all that is good.

+Commission *from Psalm 116*

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

+Closing Hymn: Journey to Gethsemane NCH #219

+Proclamation:

Let us speak as one:

Let us praise our God who speaks to us through the revelations of love and life. Let us go forward into the night, and always honor the witness to the truth shown to us by Jesus Christ.

Extinguishing of the Lights

Departure

We welcome you this morning, and invite you to return, and worship with us every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM

For your convenience you can scan our QR code to contribute electronically.

