

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE MEAL



Thursday, 6 April 2023, 6PM

Prelude: *"When You Eat This Bread"*, by Todd Beaney

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

(People gather in the sanctuary and are invited to wash their hands at the side table before moving to the dinner tables set up in the sanctuary, when all is ready the following song is sung)

Opening song - G# Prayer of Peace vs 1-4

821) Prayer of Peace

1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace
2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us, love
3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us, light
4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us, Christ

un - der our feet. Peace with - in us, peace
un - der our feet. Love with - in us, love
un - der our feet. Light with - in us, light
un - der our feet. Christ with - in us, Christ

o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace.
o - ver us, let all a - round us be love.
o - ver us, let all a - round us be light.
o - ver us, let all a - round us be Christ.

(Presider begins the Agape meal with the opening prayer:)

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

All **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the days that are before us, that following Jesus in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Presider Our Lord Jesus Christ says: ‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’ ‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.’ Let us confess our sins to God and ask him to cleanse us.

All:
Have mercy on us, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy.

Against you only have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean; wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy.

Presider May the Father forgive us our sins and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **AMEN**

(All are invited to eat and share some time in fellowship before the rest of the service continues)

Presider: (Beginning explanation of Maundy Thursday)

Youngest Person: Why is this night and this worship service different from other nights and worship services? On other days we eat all kinds of bread, why are we only eating unleavened bread tonight? Why do Jews eat bitter herbs on this night? Why do they dip their vegetables in salt water? Why do the Jews eat the Passover meal in a relaxed and leisurely way?

Oldest Person: Hear again the ancient story of the first Passover for the Jewish people of Israel: (Read Exodus lesson)

A reading from Exodus 12:1-4, (5-8), 11-14:

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Presider Why is the Passover celebration night different from other nights?
 Why do we eat unleavened bread?
 Why do the Jews eat bitter herbs?
 Why do the Jews dip their vegetables in salty water?
 Why do the Jews have this relaxed and leisurely feast?

Gospel Lesson: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (26: 17-29):

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, 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.”

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

**New Testament Lesson: A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the
Corinthians (1 Cor 11:23-26:)**

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord **People Thanks be to God**

Presider (Continues with the explanation of Maundy Thursday)

Presider Let us pray:

**All Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he
suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully
grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ
our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life;
and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Exchange of Peace

Presider: May the peace of the Lord be always with you

People: And also with you
(Everyone shares a sign of peace and greeting with each other)

The Lord's Supper:

Presider The Lord be with you

People And also with you

Presider Lift up your hearts

People We lift them to the Lord

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People It is right to give God thanks and praise

On this night we gather to remember you, Jesus. How you joined God and the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the universe to create and bless all that we see around us. How God chose people across thousands of years to teach your loving-kindness and caring that we might live in peace and harmony together. How we as your followers have often rebelled against God's ways and will. How you were foretold in the Jewish Scriptures, born of Mary and the Holy Spirit. How you revealed yourself as the Holy One promised by God, sent to us to be our leader, example, teacher, friend, and brother, to guide us into all truth. And how we have received you, Jesus, into our hearts and into our lives as the way, the truth and the life we are meant to follow.

Therefore, we, along with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory
Hosana in the highest
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosana in the highest.**

On a night similar to this one, in which Jesus was betrayed and handed over to suffering and death, Jesus was celebrating the Passover with his friends. He took the bread and said a blessing such as this:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; King of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth.

After saying the blessing, Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his friends telling them:



Take and eat; take and eat: this is my bod - y giv-en up for you.

(The Presider breaks the bread and passes it to the gathered people to share with each other, then the Presider continues).

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine and said a blessing such as this:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe. You bring forth the fruit of the vine.

When he had said the blessing, Jesus gave the cup to his followers saying:



Take and drink; take and drink: this is my blood giv-en up for you. (Fine)

The image shows a musical score on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and the word '(Fine)' above it.

(The Presider passes the cup(s) of wine to the gathered people to share with each other, then continues:)

And so we continue the tradition and memorial that God and Jesus have asked us to keep, therefore, according to their command:

ALL: We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you O Lord of all. We believe that your Holy Spirit falls upon us (+) and exists within this communion feast of the bread and wine which we have shared, uniting us to you and to one another.

Blessed are You, Lord Our God, King of the universe, who has created us and exalted us by sanctifying us through your Word and Holy Spirit. In Your love, Lord, You have given us feasts of gladness, and seasons of joy; this Festival of Passover, a season of our freedom, a sacred occasion, a remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt and an Exodus from our deaths to eternal life. For You have chosen us to be your people and have consecrated us to Your service, and giving us the celebration of your presence among us in Jesus your Son, times of gladness and joy. Blessed are You, Lord, who blesses the world and all creation within it.

Accept these prayers and praises, Eternal God, through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, we give honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now as Jesus has taught us, we pray (contemporary Lord's Prayer)

ALL: ***Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
On Earth as it is in Heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. AMEN.***

Song during Eucharist - Eat this bread
Prayer after Communion



Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and in the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Presider - When Jesus and his followers had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus led his disciples to the Mount of Olives after their supper together for a time of prayer... tonight, let us keep that tradition by each one of us spending time in prayer before bed this evening.... Some of us may keep a prayer vigil tonight here in the church. Let us stay with Jesus, remain with him, watch and pray:

Closing song - Stay with me

(people sing this song, repeatedly while cleaning up and returning the sanctuary to its usual arrangement)

When all is done, the people may pause for a moment of silence in the church and then leave quietly.

Stay With Me / Bleibet Hier

Ostinato Refrain

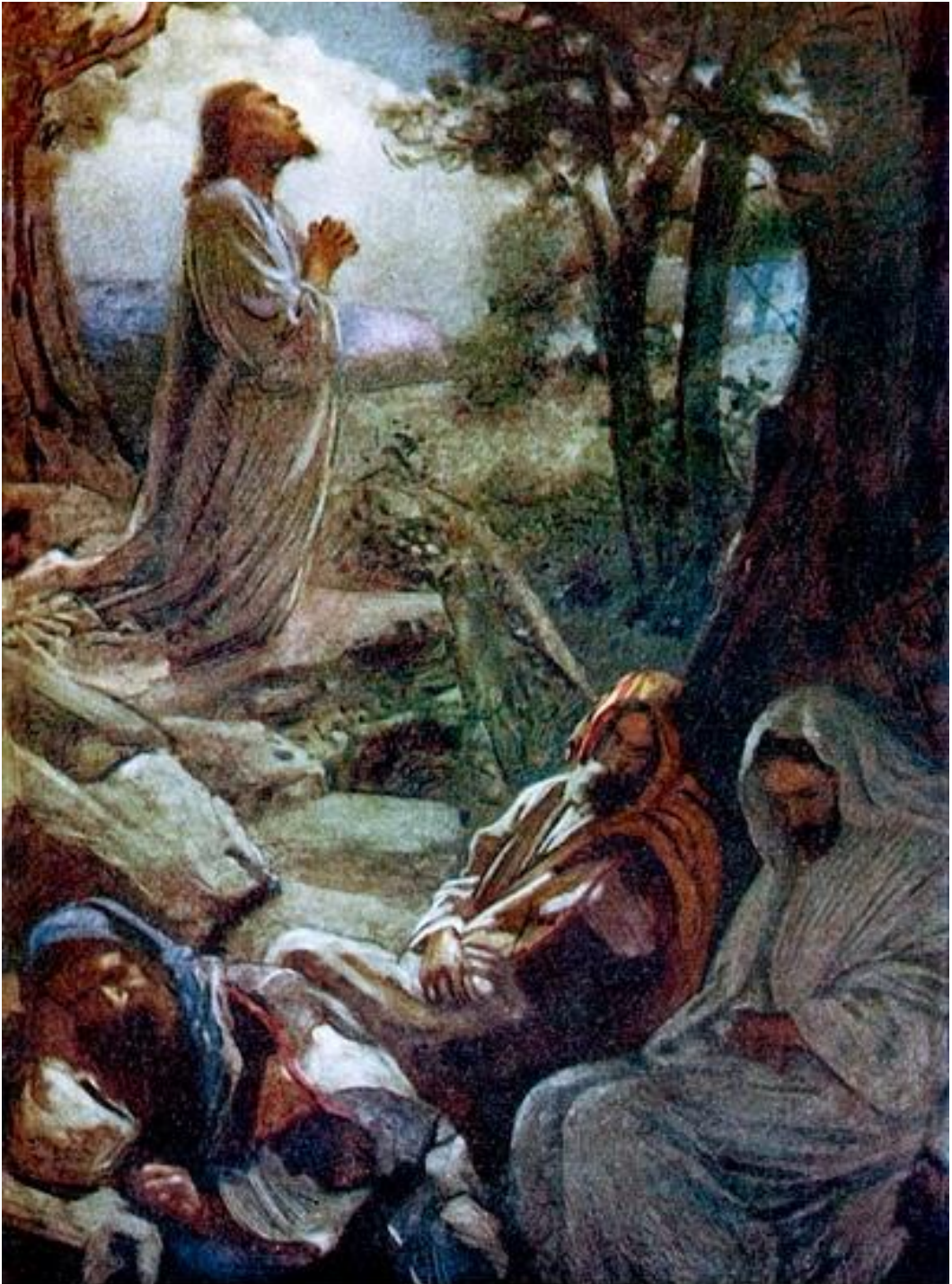
Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
Blei - bet hier und wa - chet mit mir, wa - chet und

pray, watch and pray.
be - tet, wa - chet und be - tet.

Text: Matthew 26; Taizé Community

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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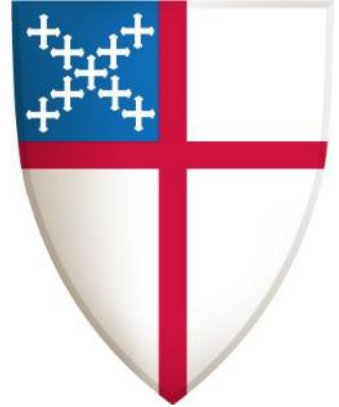


At Gethsemane by Harold Copping

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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____
(first) (Mid.) (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

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Adrs: _____ BrthDay _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____