

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

March 28, 2024

7:00 P.M.

---

**Welcome to Worship** at the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We're blessed to have you with us this evening. If you are visiting and would like to receive more information about our church, please fill out an "I Wish" card found in the pew rack.

### **Our Church Mission Statement**

*To be a dynamic and nurturing community  
called by God's grace  
to know Christ and make Him known  
through worship, love, and service.*

Adopted September 15, 2019



### **MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY SERVICE**

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **TENEBRAE SERVICE**



### **PREPARATORY NOTES**

**MAUNDY** is the English form of the Latin word meaning commandment. Jesus' new commandment to "love one another even as I have loved you" is the focus of Maundy Thursday. This love is demonstrated in Jesus' example of servanthood and the gift of Jesus' self in Holy Communion. The theme of servanthood is included in the observance of

\*All who are able, please stand.

Maundy Thursday through a service of foot washing. The Order for Tenebrae follows the conclusion of a Maundy Thursday service remembering Jesus' last supper.

**TENEBRAE** is the Latin term for shadows. It is a service of lessons followed by the gradual extinguishing of lights. The moment of total darkness recalls the days Christ was in the tomb. The relighting of the Christ candle is prophetic of Easter, which is soon to dawn. **The service of Tenebrae is not a reenactment of the Last Supper; the readers do not represent Christ and his disciples.** The readings of the Tenebrae service recall the events of Christ's last days: the Last Supper, the betrayal, the arrest, Christ's suffering, the trial, Christ's death, Christ's burial, and the destitution of the disciples. Originally celebrated over the course of three evenings, here these events are combined into one ceremony.

*As the prelude begins, let the music help you enter into the spirit of worship and prayer.*

### THE APPROACH

**PRELUDE**

Julie LaRocca

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*

### **\*RESPONSIVE WELCOME**

Pastor: Welcome in the name of God, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? God is the strength of our lives. Because of that strength we are given courage. We seek God's presence and are not disappointed. We shall trust in God, for God is our salvation.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

### **\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In remembrance, we gather:

**All: to be with the One who teaches us the meaning of faithfulness.**

Leader: In remembrance, we worship:

**All: lifting our voices to the One who calls us to love one another.**

Leader: In remembrance, we feast:

**All: breaking the Bread which makes us whole and drinking the Cup which fills us with God's graciousness.**

### **\*HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #200

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

### **\*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Creating and Loving God, you kneel to wash our feet, yet we are reluctant for you to see all the places we have gone in our attempts to escape you. You would bathe us in the warm, living waters of your love though we splash and play in the puddles of temptation. We have received all the gifts you have to offer, yet we are tempted to think they are only for us, rather than sharing them. Forgive us, Holy One, and have mercy on us. What can we give you for all your wonderful graciousness towards us? As you have broken your heart for us, may we open ours in service to others. As you have given your life for us, may we offer ours to bring healing to the world. As you have**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**called us together around your Table, may we go forth to feed a world hungry, not only for food, but for that Spirit which brings peace and reconciliation. This we pray as servants of Christ Jesus, who came to serve us in life, in death, and in resurrection hope. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: On this holiest of nights, we have received the good news: God has come in Christ Jesus, to fill us with hope and peace, to bathe us in grace and mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

Chalice Hymnal #35

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever-shall be,  
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.***

**JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLE’S FEET**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Pew Bible NT p. 107

LP Pew Bible NT p. 153

**John 13:1-17**

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UPPER ROOM**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## **THE COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Leader:** Gathering around the Table as we celebrate new life being born, we remember many stories shared around tables; tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out, where families gather and generations share, where stories are remembered, refined, and reshaped.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Leader:** Gathering around the Table, it is a blessing to remember the story of the Holy One, the Sacred Spirit, daring to share our life and the Light of God. It is the story of the Holy One, the Sacred One, donning human flesh and dwelling among us; a story that is at once both of heaven and of earth.

**All: Glory be to God in the highest!**

**Leader:** Gathering around the Table now, we break the bread and remember this paradox: it is in our brokenness that we become whole. We also fill this cup and remember the abundance we each discover when we share our sacred stories.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Leader:** Together, around the Table, we pray:

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst; indeed, in one another. Holy Spirit, thank you for coming to us. Amen.**

## **THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

### **THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

**All: God of Abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ Jesus, making us one with all your people. We give you thanks that you send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ Jesus, our teacher, example, and savior. Amen.**

**TENEBRAE – THE GATHERING DARKNESS**

**ANTHEM** Senior Choir  
*No rose Bloomed in Gethsemane*

**THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL** Matthew 26:20-25

**THE SHADOW OF DESERTION** Matthew 26:31-35

**HYMN (congregation)** Chalice Hymnal #210 (vs. 1)  
*Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*

**THE AGONY OF THE SOUL** Luke 22:39-44

**THE UNSHARED VIGIL** Mark 14:32-41

**HYMN** Solo: Dave Robert #210 (vs. 2)  
*Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*

**FATHER, THE HOUR IS COME** John 17:1-6

**“THAT THEY MAY BE ONE”** John 17:15-22

\*All who are able, please stand.

**HYMN** Senior Choir #210 (vs. 3)  
*Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*

**THE ARREST AT THE GATES** John 18:1-5

**THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS** Mark 15:16-20

**HYMN** Senior Choir #210 (vs. 4)  
*Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*

**THE LIGHT OF GOD REJECTED**  
John 1:1-4, 14, 10, 12, 3:19

**THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

**HYMN** Chalice Hymnal #198  
*Were You There When They Crucified My Lord*  
Julie LaRocca, Matt Ramos, Becky Hinckley, Adam Geiger

**JOHN 1:5** Pastor Joanne

**SILENCE**  
*We Invite You To Leave In Quiet Reflection*



**Tenebrae Participants**

Pastor Joanne, Julie LaRocca, Senior Choir, Dave Robert

**Deacons:** Beth Tautkus, Jane Scordato. Mary Iovine, Melissa Rolland, Alice Sprowles, Dave Feindel, Laurie Hazelton, Brian Wright

**Ushers:** Cassie Miller, Jol Sprowles

**Cello:** Charles Wasserman

\*All who are able, please stand.

**Copyrights:**

***Were You There***

**WORDS:** African-American spiritual

**MUSIC:** African-American spiritual; adapt. And arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
CCLI #1326969

**Ellington Congregational Church, UCC**

*Location & Shipping Address: 72 Main Street*

*Mailing Address: P.O. Box 216 ~ Ellington, Connecticut 06029*

**The Rev. Joanne Myer**

**Intentional Interim Minister**

**860 872 9222**

**Juliane LaRocca**

**Director of Music**

**Lee Carman**

**Director of Faith Formation**

**Jill McAllister**

**Outreach & Media Coordinator**

**Caroline Takach**

**Office Administrator**

**Betsy Cottle (volunteer)**

**Church Clerk**

**Lisa Sirag (volunteer)**

**Historian**

Phone: 860-871-6606

Fax: 860-871-5932

E-mail: **[OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org](mailto:OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org)**

Website: **[www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org)**

\*All who are able, please stand.



\*All who are able, please stand.

\*All who are able, please stand.