MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 2, 2026 | 6pm

PART I: INVITATION

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

Leader: Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, love one another."
My friends, be filled with the love of Christ!

People: The love of Christ flows through us and around us.

Leader: We come to remember and to give thanks.

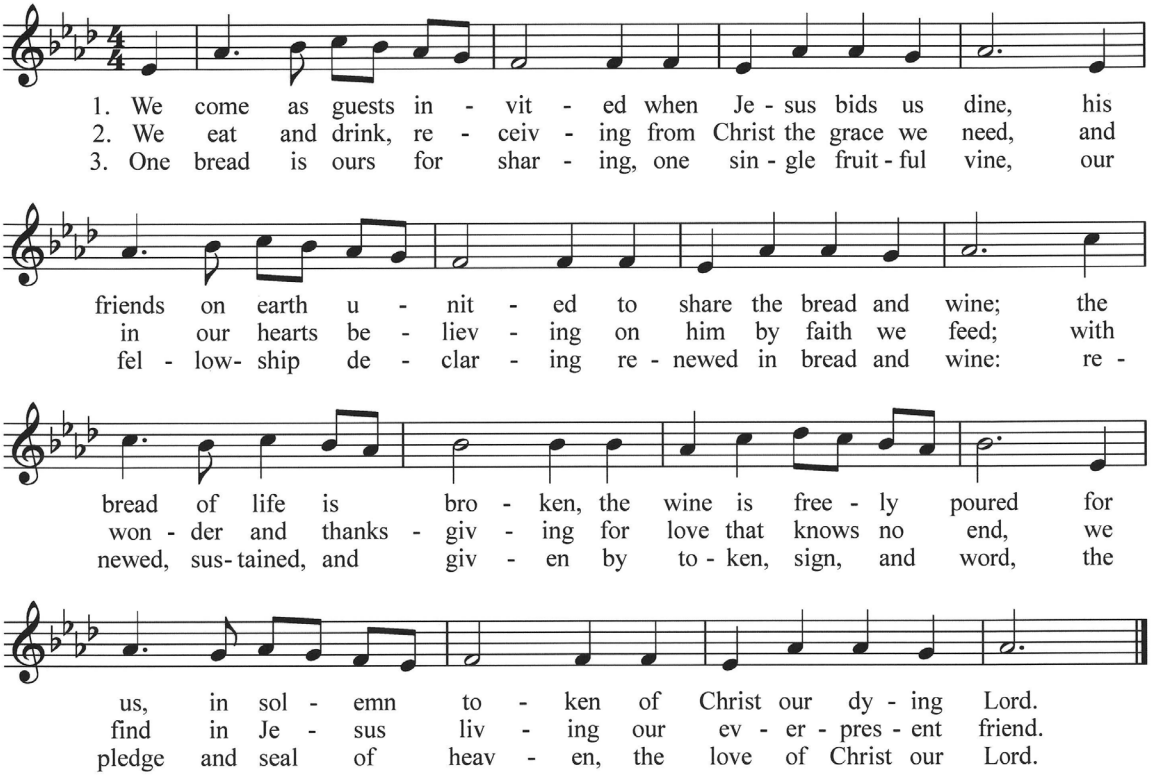
People: The love of Christ flows through us and around us.

Leader: We gather at this table to be fed by God's Spirit, to be filled with Christ's amazing love!

HYMN

We Come As Guests Invited

WIE LIEBLICH



Music: Johann Steurlein, 1546-1613 Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, © 1984, 1989, Hope Publ, Inc., used by permission One License #729334-A

REMEMBERING THE STORY Mark 14:12-21 Rev. Kent Dobson

12 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the
Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations
for you to eat the Passover?"

13 So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water
will meet you. Follow him. 14 Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is
my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15 He will show you a large room
upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

16 The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they
prepared the Passover.

17 When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. 18 While they were reclining at the table
eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

19 They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

20 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. 21 The Son of
Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It
would be better for him if he had not been born."

PRAYER

Ever gracious God, we gather this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us in the breaking of the bread of our need and of your sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and redeemer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING I John 4:7, 11-12 Rev. Bell Olsson

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been
born of God and knows God.

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen
God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

PART II: DINNER & CONVERSATION

PRAYER BLESSING OUR MEAL Rev. Bell Olsson

God of love, as we prepare to remember the events of this night, open our eyes to see the beauty of Jesus' self-giving love, and by your Spirit work in us gathered here a desire and commitment to serve each other and our hurting world. We thank you for this meal. May we eat with joy, remembering your faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL AROUND THE TABLE

PART III: SHARING COMMUNION AROUND THE TABLE

THE STORY CONTINUES Mark 14:22-25 Rev. Dobson

22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and
gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

23 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 "This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.
25 "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it
new in the kingdom of God."

INVITATION TO COMMUNION Rev. Bell Olsson

Feel free to say to your neighbor as you serve communion, "This is a sign of God's love for you."

COMMUNION MUSIC *What Trees Were in Gethsemane* Scott Bosscher, baritone

By Mary E. Caldwell

What trees were in Gethsemane, what flowers were there to scent?
When Christ for you and Christ for me into his garden went. The fragrant cedar tree was there, the iris pale and slim.
They saw his grief, they heard his prayer and wept their dews for him.
And that is why the cedars green and the lilies white do whisper of the Master's love in gardens late at night.

PRAYER

In gratitude for this moment, this meal, and these people, we give ourselves to you. Send us from this table to live as changed people because we have broken this bread and shared this cup and we cannot remain the same. Amen.

THE STORY CONTINUES Mark 14:32-42 Rev. Dobson

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."
33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and
troubled. 34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay
here and keep watch."

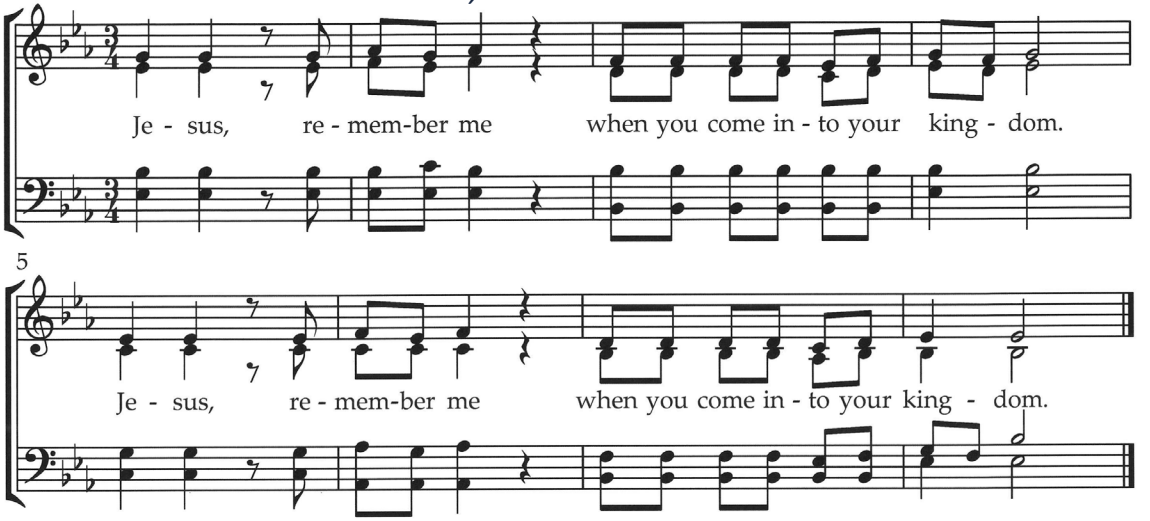
35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from
him. 36 "Abba,[a] Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not
what I will, but what you will."

37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you
asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into
temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. 40 When he came back, he again found
them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

41 Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour
has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here
comes my betrayer!”

HYMN *Jesus, Remember Me*



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QUIET REFLECTION

BLESSING Rev. Bell Olsson

Jesus said, “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.”

Go in peace, then, loving one another and loving the world that God so loved. Amen.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

APRIL 3 | GOOD FRIDAY | 6PM

Journey to the Cross – a worship service of music and readings. We welcome the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys, Mayflower’s Chancel Choir, and instrumentalists from the Grand Rapids Symphony.

APRIL 5 | EASTER | 10:30AM WORSHIP

Join us in worship and hear a message filled with the joy of the resurrection. Come sing the Hallelujah Chorus and bring flowers to adorn our wooden cross.