

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Maundy Thursday

April 1, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
(Click [here](#) to connect to this evening's live worship.)



*In preparation for celebrating communion where you are, **please have your own bread and cup available at the beginning of worship** so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during this evening's service.*

GATHERING MUSIC *Sonata for Trumpet and Organ, First Movement* Alan Hovhaness
Kent Foss, trumpet; Gordon Campbell, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Weicher

PRELUDE *Ave Maria* Charles Gounod, J.S. Bach
Ben Maxwell, cello; Jacob Wang, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Mindy Douglas

Leader: Why is this night different?

**All: Though we are scattered
in homes, apartments, households,
still we can gather in God's heart.**

Leader: Why is this worship different?

**All: We cannot gather as God's household,
yet we can still find ourselves
together in God's heart and love.**

Leader: Why is this meal different?

**All: Alone, with family, with just our pets,
we begin to understand the weariness,
the uncertainty, the questions which
sat around that table long ago with Jesus and his friends.**

Leader: Why is this night, this worship, this meal the same?

**All: We are still God's beloved,
who is with us in these moments, these days, these nights.
We are still the followers of Jesus,
who would wash our hearts of our doubts and fears.
We are still comforted by the Spirit,
who blesses the meal we will share this night.**

HYMN No. 202 (verses 1-2) *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

O Waly Waly

**An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their risen friend.**

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Susan Dunlap

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”**

**We are not always that willing to love one another,
especially when others have wronged us for whatever reasons.**

We hold grudges rather than confront our aggressors.

We talk *about* them rather than *to* them.

As Judas betrayed Jesus we continue to deceive the risen Christ.

**As we partake of the Lord’s Supper
the table is not yet spread with good will.**

**Forgive our reluctance to humble ourselves
and wash us anew with the waters of new life.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit,
you have given us a new commandment:
to love and serve one another in Jesus’ name.**

**Let the good news of your liberating love
be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 14:12-25

John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION

“A Precise Plan”

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: The hour came, O God who imagines, when chaos was no more,
as you lifted the cup of creation, and poured it out:

stars danced in night skies,
cattle lowed in the meadows,
rivers flowed down to oceans.

You offered us a drink from the fountains of living water,
but we reached for the cup of bitterness and anger
which sin and death offered to us.

You sent prophets to sing to us of all the promises you made
but we continued to distance ourselves from you out of an abundance of caution,
taught to us by temptation and death.

That is why you decided to send your Child to us, because we broke your heart over
and over and you are the only one who could heal it.

Therefore, with those whose are quarantined by fear,
with those we love so much, yet remain isolated from,
we join our voices in speaking your praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of the forgotten and afraid.

All creation teaches us how to praise your name. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who kneels to wash us with grace. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: You are holiness beyond our understanding, God of love,
and you have blessed us with the gift of Jesus.

He could have remained isolated from us,
but chose to set aside glory to become one of us.

He could have forsaken the cross, but took it up,
giving his life so we would know that we are never alone, even in the most
isolated moments, but are surrounded by your resurrection love this night
and in every moment to come.

As we gather in these moments of isolation,
we pray our brokenness be made whole;
as we would drink the cup of grace, we pray that we would be filled with hope;
as we gather around coffee tables or in kitchens, we would remember that faith
is a mystery:

**All: In remembrance, we sit at the Table with our Friend;
in remembrance, we weep over his passion and death;
in remembrance, we long to celebrate the Resurrection;
in remembrance, we look to the day when we will be gathered together.**

Leader: On that night so, so long ago, you poured your Spirit upon your children about to share a meal before scattering from the slave masters and power brokers in Egypt. On that night so long ago, you poured out your Spirit upon your children about to share a meal before they scattered to leave Jesus alone to face death. On this night, now pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and the cup and on your children scattered in so many places. May the bread which is broken remind us that we are made whole by your love even as we seek to be faithful in caring for all those who seem so far apart from us in these days. And may the cup from which we drink remind us that we are filled with your grace, so we might be people of hope in times of despair, so we might be people of love in times of anger, so we might be people of peace in the face of fear. And when these long days and nights of isolation are over and we are once again gathered as your people, we will join hands and dance around your meal, singing glory and honor and praise and love to you, God of our hearts in every moment, Jesus of our hopes in every night, Spirit of our love in every person. Amen and amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption that we have shared in the body and blood of our savior.**

As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Redhead 76

Kate Busa, soloist

THE STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

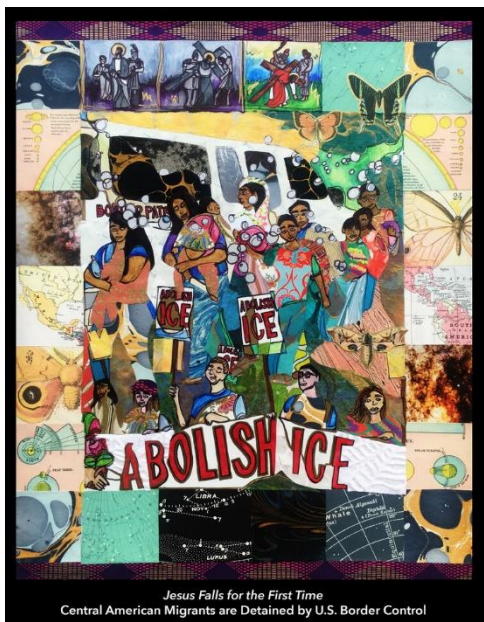
First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

Many thanks to **John Fricks** and **Jody Maxwell** for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with this live broadcast of worship.

A **portion of this evening's texts** are taken from the *Lectionary Liturgies* website ([Lectionary Liturgies](#)), *When We Gather*, and *Book of Common Worship* (2018). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Music Notes:

- We welcome back once again **Kent Foss**, **Ben Maxwell** and **Jacob Wang**, all now familiar musicians at our worship services, and express our appreciation to them for their musical contributions to this Maundy Thursday service.
- Charles Gounod's setting of "Ave Maria" is one of the most revered works in the classical repertoire. Gounod improvised the melody over J.S. Bach's "Prelude no. 1 in C Major" from the "Well Tempered Clavier." The reference to Mary, beloved mother of Jesus, chosen and sanctified by God the Father, is intentional on this Maundy Thursday, reminding us that Christ's passion and crucifixion brought suffering to many in his family and extended community, all of whom are granted redemption by the miracle of the resurrection and ascension.
- Together with the First Movement from Hovhannes' Sonata, which first we heard several weeks ago as part of our Sunday service, these works express both a contemplative sadness and the assurance of hope granted to us by our Lord's new covenant with God's creation as expressed in the life of God's son, Jesus Christ.



April 2 & 3, 2021

Daylight Hours - Stations of the Cross (FPC grounds)

This year's Station of the Cross series explores the intersection of Christ's journey to the cross and the global stories of forced migration, relocation of indigenous peoples, and the movement of refugees. Numbered art installations will be set along the sidewalk outdoors at the back of the church. "The Way of the Cross" brochure will be available where you begin the journey, offering information about this ancient practice and each of the stations, and includes prayers.

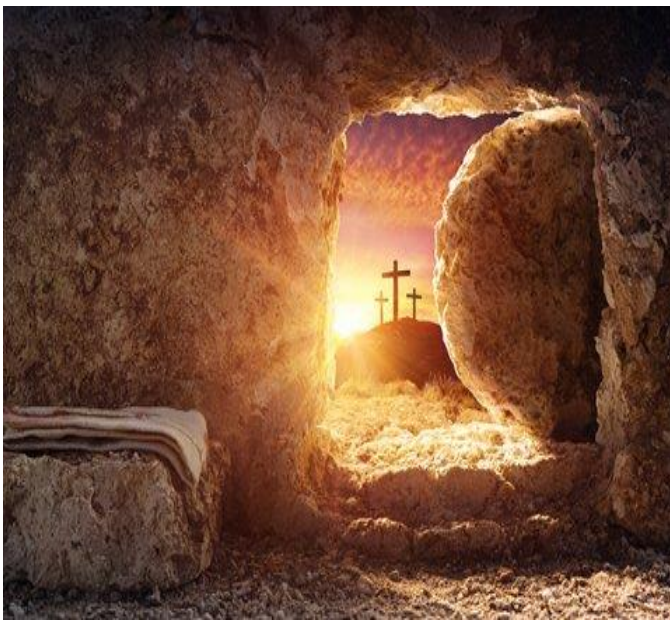
**North Carolina Central University's Presbyterian Campus Ministry
invites us to this virtual event!**



PCM NCCU Holy Saturday
Fine Arts Worship Service
April 3, 2021 10:00am
Video Premiere: pcmncu.org/worship

Art Liturgical Dance
Song Spoken Word

Presbyterian Campus Ministry
@ North Carolina Central University
Instagram @pcmncu, FaceBook @realPCMNCU



**Easter Sunday, April 4
Resurrection of the Lord**

11 a.m. – Worship with Holy Communion
(Virtual Worship - Click on the word WORSHIP
from the church website homepage.)

The ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** (OGHS) offering,
received annually on Easter Sunday, provides
relief to the hungry, poor, and oppressed, and
those affected by natural disasters. The link to
give online is [here](#).

An Upper Room Did Our Lord 202

Prepare



1 An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he
2 A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his
3 And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,
4 No end there is! We de - part in peace. He loves be -



loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still
bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may
too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be
yond our ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our



gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.
bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.
made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.
Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant



Mitzi Lesher-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.