April 1, 2021
Maundy Thursday

Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.
Prelude
“O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go” — arr. Barbara Hastings

Welcome (Julie)

Introduction (Joseph)
Welcome, my brothers and sisters to our Maundy or Holy Thursday Service. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word “mandatum” or commandment — as in the “new commandment” Jesus gives to his disciples in John chapter 13 verse 34. This day is commemorated as the day when Jesus had his last supper with his disciples and washed their feet in humble service setting for them an example. This is the day when Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane and was arrested by the Roman soldiers. It is in remembrance of his last supper that churches have communion service as we do today.

Hymn #2108 (black)
“O How He Loves You and Me”
O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me!
He gave his life. What more could he give?
O how he loves you; O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!

2. Jesus to Calv’ry did go; his love for sinners to show.
What he did there brought hope from despair.
O how he loves you; O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!

WORDS and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser © 1975 Word Music, Inc.

Call to Worship (John)
PASTOR: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
ALL: Just as he loved us, we also should love one another.
PASTOR: Tonight,
ALL: Jesus gave himself over to those who would persecute him.
PASTOR: Tonight,
ALL: Jesus gathered with his friends in an upper room.
PASTOR: Tonight,
ALL: Jesus took a towel and washed his friends’ feet, giving us an example of love in action.
PASTOR: Tonight, we gather to remember and practice the new commandment, to love one another.
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim Christ’s death until he comes.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (John)
PASTOR: Examine us, O God, and know our heart; test and judge our thoughts.
ALL: Find any deceit in us and guide us in the way of life.
PASTOR: Be assured that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus, our Savior and our friend.
Sharing the Peace

PASTOR: On the night he ate supper for the last time with his friends, Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.” May the peace of Jesus, the Christ, be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

God’s Word Proclaimed

John 13:1-17 (Dan, John, Joseph)

NARRATOR: Before the Passover festival began, Jesus was keenly aware that His hour had come to depart from this world and to return to the Father. From beginning to end, Jesus’ days were marked by His love for His people. Before Jesus and His disciples gathered for dinner, the adversary filled Judas Iscariot’s heart with plans of deceit and betrayal. Jesus knowing that He had come from God and was going away to God, stood up from dinner and removed His out garments. He then wrapped Himself in a towel, poured water in a basin, and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with His towel.

PETER: Lord, are You going to wash my feet?

JESUS: Peter, you don’t realize what I am doing, but you will understand later.

PETER: You will not wash my feet, now or ever!

JESUS: If I don’t wash you, you will have nothing to do with Me.

PETER: Then wash me but don’t stop with my feet. Cleanse my hands and head as well.

JESUS: Listen, anyone who has bathed is clean all over except for the feet. But I tell you this, not all of you are clean.

NARRATOR: He knew the one with plans of betraying Him, which is why He said, “not all of you are clean.” After washing their feet and picking up His garments, He reclined at the table again.

JESUS: Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and truly, that is who I am. So if your Lord and Teacher washes your feet, then you should wash one another’s feet. I am your example; keep doing what I do. I tell you the truth: a servant is not greater than the master. Those who are sent are not greater than the one who sends them. If you know these things, and if you put them into practice, you will find happiness.

PASTOR: The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

JOSEPH: The peace of Christ be with you,

ALL: and also with you.

JOSEPH: Lift up your hearts to God.

ALL: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

JOSEPH: Abba God, Parent of us all, on this sacred and Holy Night, we give thanks for your greatness, experienced in (silence).

We give thanks for our friend Jesus, who is (silence).

We give thanks for our constant guide, the Holy Spirit, who has (silence).

We join the gathered saints in singing praises to you, the Triune God.

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

JOSEPH: On this commemoration of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples, we pause to remember, our brother, the Prince of Peace. We remember the life he lived. (silence)

We remember the teachings and stories he shared. (silence)

We remember the people he loved. (silence)

We remember the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
JOHN: On this night, we did not yet know that Christ would come again. On this night, all we knew for sure was that Jesus would leave us. When he took the bread, blessed and broke it, we did not know that his body would also be broken. When he took the cup, blessed and poured it, we did not know that his blood would also spill. We know that Jesus is our friend. We know that Jesus has saved each of our lives in unique and intimate ways. We know that to honor our friend we must try to honor each other, offering love, hospitality and kindness, while seeking peace, mercy and justice.

And so we break the bread, to remember him, and the words he spoke before giving the bread to his disciples: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And we lift the cup, to remember him, and the words he spoke again as he gave the cup to his disciples: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Guiding Spirit, pour your love onto these gifts, so that they may become to us, a living remembering, of our friend and Savior, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

JOHN: Friends of Jesus, this is the bread of life.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

JOHN: This is the cup of blessing.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

JOHN: These are Christ’s gifts to us.

ALL: May we eat and drink in memory of him.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion (John)

Abba God, we thank you for Jesus, who on the night he was betrayed, chose to share love and friendship with his disciples. May we follow Christ’s example and do the same in our daily living. Amen.

God’s Word Proclaimed

John 13:31-35 (Dan, Joseph)

NARRATOR: Upon Judas’ departure, Jesus spoke:

JESUS: Now the Son of Man will be glorified as God is glorified in Him. If God’s glory is in Him, His glory is also in God. The moment of this astounding glory is imminent. My Children, My time here is brief. You will be searching for Me; and as I told the Jews, “You cannot go where I am going.” So I give you a new command: Love each other deeply and fully. Remember the ways that I have loved you, and demonstrate your love for others in those same ways. Everyone will know you as My followers if you demonstrate your love to others.

Hymn #292 (red, vs. 1-2) “What Wondrous Love Is This”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

WORDS: USA folk hymn
Commissioning and Blessing *(John)*

**PASTOR:** We have received the mandate to love one another.
We have observed Christ’s example of servanthood.

**ALL:** Christ sends us out as disciples of love, to serve in his name.

**PASTOR:** May hope be born within us on this night, and faithfulness rise as we prepare for tomorrow. And may God the Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us forever. Amen

**ALL:** Amen.

Postlude

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee — arr. Terry Osman

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**Announcements**

**Good Friday**
Pastor Joseph’s reflections on Good Friday will be posted on the AldersgateLinc Facebook page.

**Easter Sunday**
You are invited to worship in the Aldersgate U.M. Church building beginning Easter Sunday, April 4.

What will continue in April? The 9:30 a.m. worship service will be live streamed with both Pastor Joseph and Pastor John Goldrich and may be viewed at your convenience online. We will be wearing masks and extra masks are available near the Sanctuary entrance. The only people who remove their masks are the hymn leaders during the hymns and the pastors as they speak. Hand sanitizer is available and we will observe the social distancing recommendations. Cookies will not be available and please wave rather than shake hands. If you are not feeling well or have been around someone with symptoms or who is COVID-19 positive, please stay home. Although many are completely vaccinated, we know that not everyone in the building has been. There is no adult Sunday School offered and the Children’s Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. by zoom. Youth Sunday School is on the same zoom link at 9:40 a.m.

What is changing in April? With Easter, we will be entering a new season in the church year. But we are also entering a new phase in the pandemic. You are invited to participate in worship at either 9:30 or 11:00 Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary. If the Sanctuary is at the socially distanced capacity, overflow will be in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no hymnals so the words will be in the bulletin and on the screen. The congregation is invited to hum along and at 11:00 one of the hymns will be replaced by a music video. Someone will take attendance for contact tracing and will get contact information should we have any visitors. The offering plates are at the entrance of the Sanctuary and on the first Sunday of the month the individual communion elements will be on your seat. When you leave the 9:30 service, please disinfect your chair and someone will sanitize the frequently touched surfaces like door knobs.

If you plan to attend the 9:30 worship service on Easter Sunday, please contact the Church Office so we can plan ahead for a socially distanced crowd.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office. We look forward to seeing you either on Sunday morning or on one of the zoom groups.

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**THE ALDERSGATE MISSION:**
To make followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor.

**THE ALDERSGATE VISION:**
To change lives by connecting, growing, and serving through Christ.