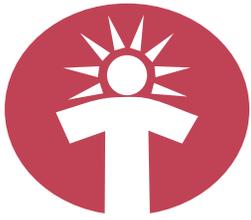


Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 14, 2022
MAUNDY THURSDAY



*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity,
sexual orientation or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship,
responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

Abide With Me

arr Hal Hopson

GREETING (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

Rev. David Denoon

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***GATHERING HYMN**

God of the Women

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

God of the women who answered your call,
trusting your prom-ise, giving their all,
women like Hagar and Huldah and Ruth__
give us their cour-age to live in your truth.

God of the women long put to the test,
left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
quiet-ly asking: “Who smiled at my birth?” __
in Jesus’ dying you show us our worth.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
may we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near__
that we may share in your ministry here.

RITUAL OF CONFESSION

Rev. Merrimon Boyd

**Invitation to Confession* (Responsive)

Siblings, we are called to be children of the day and not children of the night.

Let us approach the throne of grace that we may receive mercy.

**Corporate Confession* (Unison)

Precious Christ, on the night before your betrayal, as you sat at supper you were anointed by an unnamed woman bestowing on you a kindness like no other. We seek healing from our sinfulness. We pray you, forgive us our debts, and accept us as your friends. Comfort and assure us, anoint us by your Holy Spirit. Then, guide us to forgive as we have been forgiven and to bless others as we have come to know blessing in you. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Assurance of Pardon* (Responsive)

We love the holy One, because God has heard our voices and our supplications

What shall we return to our God for all the bounty we have received?

We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on God’s name.

HYMN

Abide with Me
New Century Hymnal, No. 99

Henry F. Lyte

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

Institution and Consecration It Was a Sad and Solemn Night

Isaac Watts, *adapted*

The Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Our Mother in heaven, make your name holy. Reveal your love, and teach us your way. Make earth alike with heaven. Provide bread for today, so that we do not worry about tomorrow. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Keep us from things that would keep us from you, but deliver us from the evil one. For here is your love: where power and glory are shared, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution

*Please approach by a diagonal aisle and return by the center aisle
Bread and cup will be offered you by a server.
The bread is gluten-free, grape juice is red and wine is white.*

Music for Communion

Lead Us Back
Performed by Katie Noland

Sojourn

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)*

We thank you, God for inviting us to this table of remembrance – where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SHARING THE WORD

From the Gospels

Luke 22:14-27, 33-39
(The Inclusive Bible, by Priests for Equality)

Read by BJ Kaul

When the hour had come, Jesus took a place at the table with the apostles. Jesus said to them, "I've longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I tell you, I will not eat it again until everything is fulfilled in the reign of God."

Then taking a cup of wine, Jesus gave thanks and said, "Take this and share it among you. I tell you, I will not drink wine from now on, until the reign of God comes." Then Jesus took bread and gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Jesus did the same with the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which will be poured out for you.

"Look! The hand of my betrayer is at this table with me. The Chosen One is following the appointed course. But woe to the person by whom that One is betrayed!" Then they began to argue among themselves as to which of them would do such a deed.

Another dispute arose among them about who would be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them, "Earthly rulers domineer over their people. Those who exercise authority over them are called the 'benefactors.' This must not happen with you. Let the greatest among you be like the youngest. Let the leader among you become the follower. For who is the greater? The one who reclines at a

meal, or the one who serves it? Isn't it the one reclining at the table? Yet here I am among you as the one who serves you.

Jesus asked them, "when I sent you off without a purse, traveling bag or sandals, were you in need of anything?"

"No, nothing!" they replied.

He said, "Now, however, the one who has a purse had better carry it; the same with a traveling bag. And if they don't have a sword, they should sell their cloaks and buy one! for I tell you, what was written in scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'The suffering servant was counted among criminals' – for whatever refers to me must be fulfilled."

And they said, "Look, Rabbi, here are two swords!"

Jesus answered, "That is enough."

Then Jesus went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives; the disciples accompanied him.

Response to the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

CHANCEL DRAMA

Women at the Table

Logos Readers

A new vision of a familiar story

The setting is the table of the Last Supper, about an hour after Jesus and the Eleven have left for the Mount of Olives. The Passover seder has been mostly cleared, and ten female disciples – a sister, mothers, and friends of the men – remain to reflect and reminisce about the Rabbi's work and community.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Could We Start Again, Please?

Rice & Lloyd Webber

Performed by Katie Noland

I've been living to see you,
Dying to see you, but it shouldn't be like this.
This was unexpected. What do I do now?
Could we start again please?

I've been very hopeful so far.
Now for the first time I think we're going wrong.
Hurry up and tell me this is just a dream.
Oh, could we start again please?

I think you've made your point now.
You've even gone a bit too far to get the message home.
Before it gets too frightening, we ought to call a halt.
So, could we start again please?

PARTING RITUAL

**Prayer in Preparation for Anointing (Responsive)*

In your presence, God, and in our need, bringing with us the needs of the world,
**We have come to you, for you have come to us in Jesus, and you know
by experience what human life is like.**

Now as we prepare to depart, we do so still with our faith and with our doubts;
with our hopes and with our fears.
We will go with you just as we are, because you have invited us;
And you have promised never to turn us away.

POSTLUDE

Could We Start Again Please (reprise)

CAST

Narrator..... Jan Barnes
Marianne Gillian Guthrie
Susanna..... Marilyn Davis
Joanna..... Sue Leary
Martha Nina Thompson
Magdalene (Mary of Magdala)..... Halley Kim
Nazarena (Mary of Nazareth) Andrea Welnick
Bethany (Mary of Bethany) Katie Noland
Salome..... Kedra Tolson
Woman with the Alabaster Flask..... Sharon Love
Emma (Mary of Emmaus) Terri Thompson
Clopas (or Alphaeus of Emmaus)..... Merrimon Boyd
Lazarus Leon Burke III



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 14 – Worship at 7:00 pm

Communion and Chancel Drama – *“Women at the Table”*

Good Friday Blues, April 15 – Worship at 7:00 pm

Remembering Christ’s final hours – *“Women at the Cross”*

Easter Egg Hunt, April 16

Indoors – Public Invited – 10:00 am

Easter Festival, April 17 – Worship at 10:00 am

Women of the Bible

“Mary Magdalene and the Importance of Believing (Her)”



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

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