



Old Presbyterian Meeting House

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1, 2021

Please keep your masks on throughout the service except during Communion.

PRELUDE

Meditation on “Let us break bread together”

Spiritual, arr. Steven Seigart
b. 1990

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Robert R. Laha

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.

On this day, Christ the Lamb of God,
gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

On this day, Christ gave us this holy feast,
that we who eat this bread and drink this cup
may here proclaim his holy sacrifice
and be partakers of his resurrection,
and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Ann Herlin

O God, your love was embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal. Wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him as Lord and Christ, now and forever.

1. 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. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
 to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
 to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
 while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
 while millions join the theme, I will sing!

4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
 and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
 and through eternity I'll sing on.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Ann Herlin

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.

In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

GOD'S WORD TO US

ANTHEM

Tantum ergo (1865)

César Franck

Translation: *So great a sacrament this is, that therefore let us venerate with bowed heads:* 1822–1890

And let the ancient law give way to new rites.

Let faith provide a supplement to the failing of our senses.

To the Begotter of the Begotten One be praise and jubilation;

Salvation, honor, power too and blessing be:

To the One who proceeds from both be equal praise. Amen.

—St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)

Suzanne Karpov Seigart, soprano solo

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 22:14–27

Dr. Robert R. Laha

REFLECTION

Embodied Love

Dr. Robert R. Laha

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Dr. Robert R. Laha

Rev. Ann Herlin

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

HYMN 205

Live in Charity (Ubi caritas)

UBI CARITAS (TAIZÉ)

*Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

BENEDICTION

Dr. Robert R. Laha

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on
WONDROUS LOVE

American Folk Hymn,
arr. Steven Seigart

NOTES ON THE MUSIC

At the center of today's service is holy communion, and no communion hymn has had more lasting power throughout all of Christian history than St. Thomas Aquinas' "Pange lingua" (13th century). It is sung in many traditions at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service as the communion elements are brought to another location until Easter, with the last two stanzas, "Tantum ergo," set apart to be sung once the elements reach their place of repose. Set by composers from Palestrina to Fauré, today's setting is by French Parisian composer César Franck, probably best known as the composer of another communion hymn, "Panis angelicus." Like that one, "Tantum ergo" exists in both choral and solo versions, and this setting slowly unfolds into the final stanza, sometimes called the "magnificent doxology" and then ends with an introspective "Amen." Powerful in its simplicity, Franck's version captures the spirit and lets this beautiful, doctrinal text speak for itself.

