



Maunderly
THURSDAY

April 2, 2026

Maundy Thursday

A Service of Communion & Tenebrae

THE GATHERING

Prelude	<i>Go to Dark Gethsemane</i>	T. Tertius Noble
Welcome and Introduction		Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg
Call to Worship		Kathy Ramser
*Hymn #200	<i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i>	

*Opening Prayer (unison) Kathy Ramser

Loving God, we gather in wonder to behold your gift of Jesus the Christ, who, in bringing the world to wholeness, was broken by it. Yet it is by his death we live and know your unbreakable love. As we gather to remember the gift of table fellowship and to recall the story of Jesus' death, transform us in this hour and in the days to come by the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE UPPER ROOM

The Lesson and Invitation to the Table: John 13:1-15, 31b-35 (NT p. 107-108)

Hymn #385 vs. 1-3 *"An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare"*

Words of Institution Dr. Stagg

Prayer of Consecration and 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.

Receiving the Elements:

*Communion is available to all. Choose 1 of 3 forms: 1) coming forward for intinction, 2) choose an individual bread & communion cup from the trays or 3) remaining in your seat for those unable to come forward and a deacon will bring you an individual bread & communion cup. For those coming forward: come down the center aisle and return by the side aisles. **Gluten free** communion elements are available in the Narthex. All communion elements are **non-alcoholic**.*

Communion Meditation Music

Special Music

The Messiah

G. F. Handel

No. 29 Thy Rebuke Hath Broken His Heart

No. 32 But Thou Didst Not Leave His Soul in Hell

Christopher Elliott, tenor and Rochelle Parker, piano

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

LESSON 1 – Matthew 26: 36-46 *The Garden of Gethsemane*

FIRST CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

RESPONSE: Hymn #196, verse 1 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

LESSON 2 – Matthew 26:47-56 *Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss*

SECOND CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

RESPONSE: Hymn #211, verse 1 “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

LESSON 3 – Matthew 26:57-68 *Jesus before the Sanhedrin*

THIRD CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

RESPONSE: Hymn #195, verse 3 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LESSON 4 – Matthew 26:69-75 *Peter’s denial*

FOURTH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

RESPONSE: Hymn #210, verses 1 & 2 “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast...”

LESSON 5 – Matthew 27:1-26 *Jesus before Pilate*

FIFTH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

RESPONSE: Hymn #198, verses 1 & 2 “Were You There”

LESSON 6 – Matthew 27:27-44 *The soldiers mock Jesus*

SIXTH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

RESPONSE: Hymn #202, verse 1 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

LESSON 7 – Matthew 27:45-50 *The death of Jesus*

CHRIST CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

(Silence will be observed while the bell tolls - signifying Jesus’ death)

LESSON 8 – Matthew 27:51, 54 *Surely, he was the Son of God*
SILENCE

Please remain seated in silence until the lights are raised to facilitate leaving. Silence is observed throughout the sanctuary from this time forward. Each person is encouraged to pray and meditate as long as he or she desires, then to depart in silence. Please maintain the silence until you have exited both the sanctuary and the narthex.

WELCOME

Welcome Visitors! We are glad you are with us. Please take a moment to visit our website, firstchristian.org to find out more about the ministry and mission of First Christian Church.

During Worship: Afghans, large print hymnals and children's bulletins with crayons are available from a greeter or are found on the shelf in the narthex. Hearing devices are available in the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. Please talk to the AV Team if you need assistance.

Children: A nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the Education Building for infants through Kindergarten-aged children. Our nursery is staffed from 6:15pm until pickup following the service.

Serving In Tonight's Service

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, clergy

Mark Goodwin, Kathy Ramser, Izzy Arnett, Valerie Freed, readers

Rochelle Parker, organist

Christopher Elliott, special music

Debbie & David Potthast and Ryan Hunsaker, deacons

Tiger Li, A/V team



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