

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude – *Wondrous Love*

David N. Johnson

Prayer of Preparation

Christ of the bread and the cup, of now and eternity, we turn to you, solemn and quiet. Help us to hear your fateful words anew: this is my body broken so that the grip of greed and despair may be broken and a new dawn may begin. When we do not understand, help us to believe, that your story may become our story, in which all people are freed and loved. Amen.

Greeting

Tommy Suttle

Call to Worship (responsive)

The Lord has heard the cries of the people and meets every sickness, every pain, every broken heart, and every hungry belly at the Lord's table.

We cannot earn our place here;

We can only accept that we are loved and come to be fed.

We offer ourselves as a sacrifice of thanksgiving and give our lives as our act of praise.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn 202 – *An Upper Room Did our Lord Prepare*

*Call to Confession

On this night as we recall Christ's betrayal, we remember this: Christ broke bread with the one who would betray him. Christ washed the feet of Judas, that he may have a share in him. Knowing how deep our Savior's forgiveness runs, let us bring our sins to God.

*Prayer of the Confession (unison)

Humble Savior, your words were clear: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you." You have loved us unflinchingly, unceasingly, and we have rejoiced in that love. But we have not poured out on others the love you have lavished on us. Forgive us. Cover us with your mercy, and lead us once again in your ways.

*Hymn 551 – *Lord, Have Mercy*

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us**

*Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Beloved of God, hear this good news: even in our sin, Christ went to conquer death on our behalf and Christ redeems us still. **Even now, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination (responsive)

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.**

First Reading – John 13:1-17, 31b-38

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

pew Bible pg. 876

Second Reading – John 18:12-27

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

pew Bible pg. 880

Sermon – *Standing Around the Fire*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation

Great Thanksgiving and The Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer (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.

The Communion

Prayer after Communion (unison)

We give you thanks, Holy One, for the body and blood of our Lord, given with love for the world. Send us out in your Spirit to share the good news of salvation and give ourselves for others; in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Stripping of the Church and Solo – *Were You There*

(Worshippers will wait in silent prayer as the paraments and other symbols are removed from the sanctuary. The Table, Font, Pulpit and choir railing will then be draped with black cloth. When this is finished, the solo has also ended, and the lights have been darkened, all may depart in silence. There is no benediction with this service.)



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**.
Please remove all papers from the sanctuary when you leave.

* Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created by the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

