

Parma Greece United Church of Christ

R. Kurt Traugott, Pastor

Sarah Staebell, Organist

Mike Zebulske, Moderator

*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

THE ORDER FOR MAUNDAY THURSDAY

April 2, 2015

Thought for Reflection

*O amazing God, You come into our ordinary lives
and set a holy table before us,
fill our plates with the Bread of life
and our cups with Salvation.*

*Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness to
touch an ordinary everyday world with the promise
of Your holiness.*

-Ann Weems

The Greeting

Liturgist: In remembrance, we gather:

**People: to be with the One
who teaches us the meaning of faithfulness.**

Liturgist: In remembrance, we worship:

**People: lifting our voices to the One
who calls us to love one another.**

Liturgist: In remembrance, we feast:

**People: breaking the Bread that heals us,
drinking from the Cup that sustains us.**

The Call To Confession

Liturgist: Lord Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

People: But only say the word and Your servant will be healed.

Liturgist: Let us confess our sins.

The Prayer of Confession-Unison

Ever gracious God, we gather in this hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us in the breaking of bread of our need and Your sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to You in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As night advances, deepen in us a sense of Your steadfast love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Friend and Redeemer. Amen.

***The Kyrie**

Liturgist: Lord have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy.

Liturgist: Christ have mercy.

People: Christ have mercy.

Liturgist: Lord have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy.

***Words of Assurance and Pardon**

Liturgist: Hear these words of comfort:

If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy, your sins are forgiven. Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life with God and all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

***An Act of Praise** "The Gloria in Excelsis"

Glory to God in Heaven. Peace and grace to His people on earth. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory, Holy One, heavenly God, the Creator and the sovereign God.

O Jesus Christ, only Child of God, O Sovereign God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of Majesty: receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Messiah, You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of the triune God. Amen.

The Collect - Unison

Almighty God, whose dear Son, on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 Page 57

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Page 173

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Liturgist: The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. John.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Page 111

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Homily *"Last Acts"*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Liturgist: This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow in His way. Come then to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and pray for a spirit. Come to this table, brothers and sisters, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Liturgist: May the God of last suppers be with you.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Open your hearts to God this day,

**People: We open them to the One whose heart is broken
in the night to come.**

Liturgist: In the midst of uncertainty and fears, we will praise God.

**People: Our thanks are offered to the One who walks and waits
with us through long nights.**

Liturgist: When the hour had come, Creator of heaven and earth,
You lifted up the cup of creation, pouring it into the
emptiness of chaos. Rivers played tag through the valleys,
stars spangled the blue-black night, joy danced in the
fields of grace. Given that fountain flowing with living
water, we drank from betrayal's bitter cup; offered the feast
of faith, we sat down at sin's groaning table. You asked the
prophets to remind us of the promises made, but we
continued to embrace the pangs of hopelessness. Then
because we are Your own, You sent Jesus to glorify You
by saving us from ourselves.

Therefore, with those whose feet are covered with sin
and those whose hearts are gripped by fear, we join the
faithful of every time and place, forever proclaiming
Your praises.

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and mercy.
We join heaven and earth in praising Your name.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who became a servant for us.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Liturgist: Holy are You, God of Redemption, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Servant, our Savior. When the hour had come, He got up from grace's side, took off His glory, tied humanity around His heart to cleanse us of our sins. In the midst of His friends, in the congregation of His enemies, He kept the promises made to You, to love us to the very end.

Our friend, He welcomed all;
our teacher, He modeled the life of obedience and faith;
our Lord, He endured the snares of death;
that we might have life with You.

Every time we eat the bread, our brokenness is made whole;
every time we drink from the cup, we receive unceasing
grace;
every time we come to the Table,
we remember the mystery called faith:

**All: In remembrance, we mourn Christ's death;
in remembrance, we look to the Day of Resurrection;
in remembrance, we await His return to us.**

Liturgist: Now that the hour is come, send Your Spirit upon the gifts of bread and cup. As You cradle the bread in Your gentleness, break it, give it to us, feed us with Your compassion that we might be made whole and, in our healing become servants to a shattered world. As You take the cup, mingle its juices with Your tears of hope, so we might carry the gift to all who have lost everything.

And when there are no more hours to come, when there is only eternal peace and life with You, we will gather in that upper room called Your heart, serving our families and friends with grace, receiving forgiveness from our enemies, singing Your joy, forever and ever. Amen.

The Prayer Of Our Savior

Our Father, Which 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 Breaking of Bread and Pouring the Cup

The Communion (Grape Juice in center of tray)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving – Unison

We thank you, Holy One, for giving us this meal, shared in the Spirit, which sustains us with the food and drink of Your life. Grace our lives that we may at the last come to share in the heavenly banquet of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***The Dismissal with Blessing**

Liturgist: Go forth in peace to walk in the way of the cross and resurrection.

People: We are sent in the name of the Lord.

Liturgist: May Jesus Christ, who was put to death for our sins, bless you and keep you.

People: Amen.

Liturgist: May Jesus Christ, who was raised to life for our salvation, let His light shine upon you.

People: Amen.

Liturgist: May Jesus Christ, be your life and peace, now and forever.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.