

Parma Greece United Church of Christ

Bradley Klug, Designated Pastor
Sarah Staebell, Organist
Ann Weitzel, Moderator

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

April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday Service – "A Eucharistic Liturgy"

ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation

On this Maundy Thursday, we gather around the table of the Lord to worship, to pray, to remember, and to receive the grace and strength we need in order to continue on the way of the cross. Let us now draw near to the table, near to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and near to the Spirit of God among us, as we take part in the great feast of love.

The Invitation – Call to Worship

A responsive reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: selections from the 116th Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-13, 17-19

L: We love the Lord, because he has heard our voice and our supplications.

P: Because he inclined his ear to us, therefore we will call on him as long as we live.

L: What shall we return to the Lord for all his bounty to us?

P: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

L: We will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

P: We will pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

All: In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

L: For the Word of God in scripture:

P: Thanks be to God.

Confession

L: We come to this table not because we must, but because we may. We come not because we are worthy, but because our Lord Jesus opened a living way into the loving heart of God. As his body was broken, the veil rent in two.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting your sacrifice and for thinking your grace is cheap.

L: Forgive us, Lord, for going through the motions of worship, forgetting that you are worthy of all our love.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for being calloused toward human suffering, forgetting that the suffering of humankind reverberates in your heart of love at all times.

L: Forgive us, Lord, for being nonchalant about injustice, forgetting that it still nails innocents to the cross.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for allowing complacency to creep into our lives of faith, forgetting that we still contend against the powers of darkness.

L: Receive, O God, our prayers offered in all humility, as we remember and honor Christ our Lord, who prays for us still.

Words of Assurance

L: This is a table where all is forgiven us:

P: We come now to receive forgiveness.

L: This is a table for those who haven't met Jesus yet, and for those who know him:

P: We come now in order to know him more.

L: This is a table where we must depend on Christ as we depend also on each other:

P: We come now to be reconciled, in Christ, to all.

L: This is a table of love:

P: We come now to love and to be loved.

L: This is a table where strength is restored:

P: We come ready to receive the Lord's grace.

L: People of God, know that you are accepted here in the fullness of love and grace, which have been lavished on us in the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: We lift them to our Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you praise and thanks, O God, for the great love with which you have loved us. If you had not reached out to us in love, revealing your compassion, your grace, your mercy, yourself, we could not have found you nor known you. But you have chosen in love for us to have awareness of your presence and your nature, showing yourself to men and women across times, places, and cultures.

Eucharistic Prayer

We thank you especially for the unsurpassable gift you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ. He revealed to us the unsearchable depth of your love, accepting the pain of death at the hands of those he came to save, exposing the rulers and powers as enemies of the kingdom of love that you are establishing on the earth, and procuring by the offering of himself the eternal victory of love over violence. Greater love has never been seen, for he laid down his life for us before we ever knew his name.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to John: John 13:1, 3-10a, 12-15, 34-35

L: For the Word of God within us:

P: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily: "Just as I have loved you"

Acclamation

L: In response to your great love, O God, we join our voices with your people, who have been set apart and are held together by your love, in every time and place, saying:

P: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty. The whole world speaks of your glory, O God, Most High.

Words of Institution

A reading from the first epistle to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

L: For the Word of God among us:

P: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Collect – Unison

Merciful God, you have shown us your love through Jesus, who loved us as a servant even though he was our teacher and Lord. You love us beyond measure, fervently and recklessly. As we come again to the table, at the end of this long, dusty Lenten journey, ready to receive yet more love, we have but one request to make of you: As Christ has washed us, let us wash one another. Let the streams of love that flow from you, through Christ, and into us not cease to flow because of our inaction or indifference, but flow all the wider and all the stronger through us to the world. Let it be so, according to your great grace, we pray.

The Lord's Prayer – In 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, the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Gracious God, we do not understand completely what happens now at this table. It is a mystery we enter into and participate in according to the command of Christ. Even so, we pray: consecrate, O God, by your Holy Spirit, the bread we break and the cup we

share. Make them be for us, in whatever way we each understand it, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be united with him in the fullness of your grace and the saving knowledge of your love. Grant us strength for the journey we are on together, and bind us together in faith, we pray.

The Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, Almighty God, for the refreshing of love that you have given us at this table. You have granted us to receive within ourselves the presence of your son, Jesus Christ, and through him we are indeed strengthened. Let that strength be for us the strength to love, and let it bubble up in us like springs of living water, overflowing unto eternal life.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sending

L: May the blessing of the Son who kneels and washes our feet call us out from our comfort and our safety to embrace and serve those we meet on the journey:

P: May the blessing of the Spirit call us to provide welcome and hospitality to strangers as well as friends.

L: May the blessing of God be with us as we depart:

P: We go now in peace. Amen, and thanks be to God.