

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023

6:30 PM

PRELUDE

Were You There?

arr. David Lasky

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

MANY: A meal of bread and wine, of meat and bitter herbs.

ONE: The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

MANY: The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.

ONE: As we break the bread and share the cup,

MANY: Our understanding may fail us.

ONE: But we will never forget Christ's example.

MANY: We will never forget the full extent of his love.

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!**

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?

Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!

'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;

I crucified thee.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;

The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered.

For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,

God interceded.

**For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation,
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
For my salvation.**

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
Not my deserving.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak... when we have failed to serve as Jesus served,

MANY: Forgive us.

ONE: When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us;

MANY: Forgive us.

ONE: When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions;

MANY: Forgive us.

ONE: Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MANY: Amen.

(We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.)

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(based on John 12:47; 13:1)

ONE: Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE

What Wondrous Love Is This (vs. 1)

WONDROUS LOVE

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!

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-17; 21-30; 31b-35

MUSICAL MEDITATION

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

MEDITATION

The Trappings of Kinship

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

**O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.**

**What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor,
And grant to me thy grace.**

**What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest friend,
For this, thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (BY INTINCTION)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST CHRISTOPHER

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all the cross.**

THE STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

HYMN

Were You There? (vss. 1-3, vs. 4 Solo)

SPIRITUAL

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

The stripping of the church is an ancient Christian custom symbolizing the nakedness and desolation of Jesus during his last hours. We depart in silence following the solo.

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is posted on the *Worship Elements* page of the **Ministry Matters** website.
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2478/worship-elements-holy-thursday-2015>.

The **Prayer of Confession** and the **Assurance of Pardon** are written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on the Liturgies Online website.

The **Invitation to Communion** is written by Cheryl Lawrie, on the [hold this space] blog. <http://holdthisspace.org.au>

All hymns are from the *Glory to God Hymnal* and are licensed for use by CCLI.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731290.