

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Communion Service

March 28, 2024

10:00 AM



Footwashing Prayer

O Jesus, my feet are dirty.

Come even as a slave to me,

Pour water into your bowl,

Come and wash my feet.

In asking such a thing I know I am overbold

But I dread what was threatened when you said to me,

“If I do not wash your feet I have no fellowship with you.”

Wash my feet then, because I long for your companionship.

And yet, what am I asking?

It was well for Peter to ask you to wash his feet,

For him that was all that was needed for him to be clean in every part.

With me it is different:

Though you wash me now I shall still stand in need of that other washing,

The cleansing you promised when you said,

“There is a baptism I must needs be baptized with.”

~ Origen c. 185-c. 254



Our worship service this evening is drawn from the Stations of the Cross. Together, we will journey with Jesus in his final moments as seen through the eyes of his disciple, Peter. In Peter, we see a little of all of us—he is devout and resolute, zealous and rash, and even fearful and flawed. If any of us can locate ourselves in the crucifixion story, it is likely we can see ourselves in Peter.

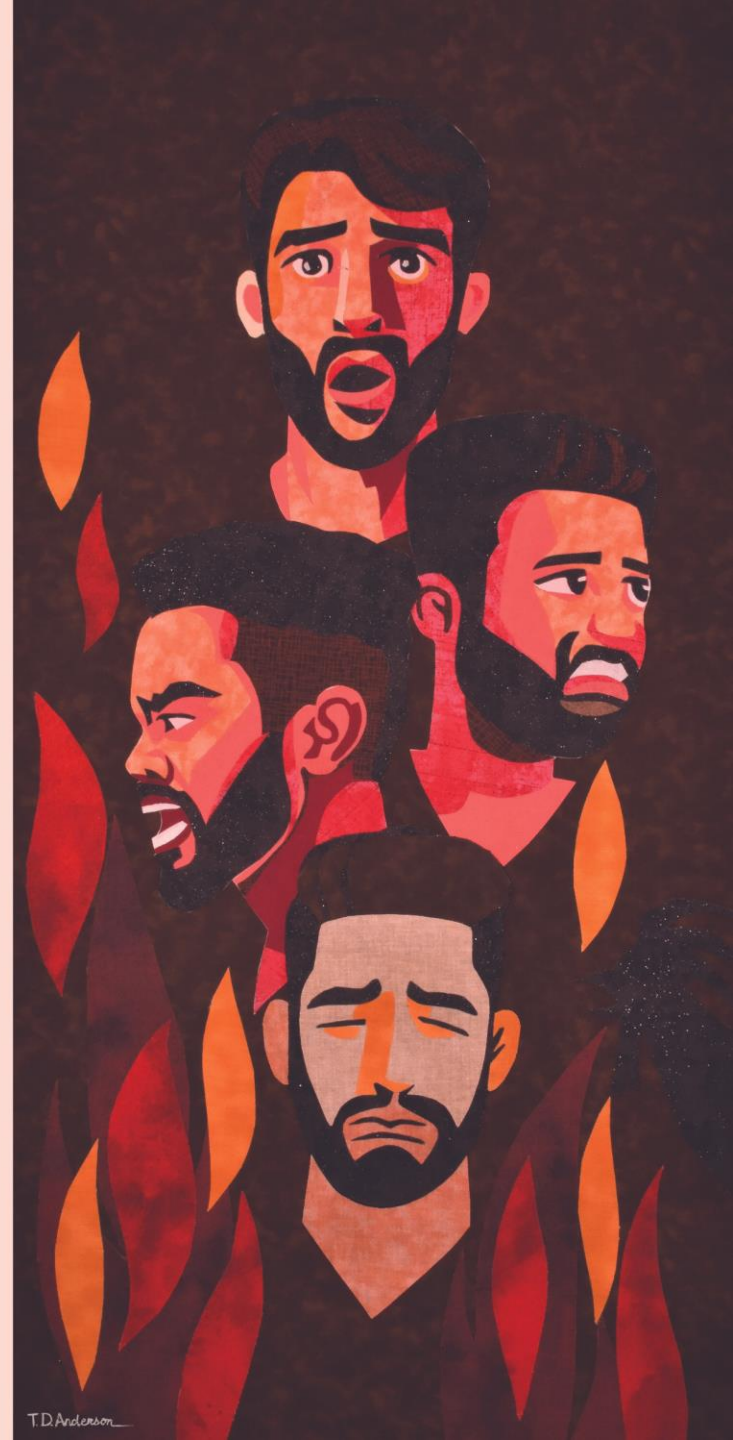
This is a service of confession, lament, and repentance. Through Peter's experience, we will consider our own. We will look closely at the events of Good Friday to help us honestly assess who we are. As Jesus tells Peter the truth about himself, we will consider the truth about ourselves. Let us journey together, trusting in God's power and willingness to bind our wandering hearts to God's own self.



PRELUDE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, as we journey through this familiar story, help us to understand it anew. Show us, O God, where we find ourselves in the narrative, and move us toward a more just and compassionate future. Amen.

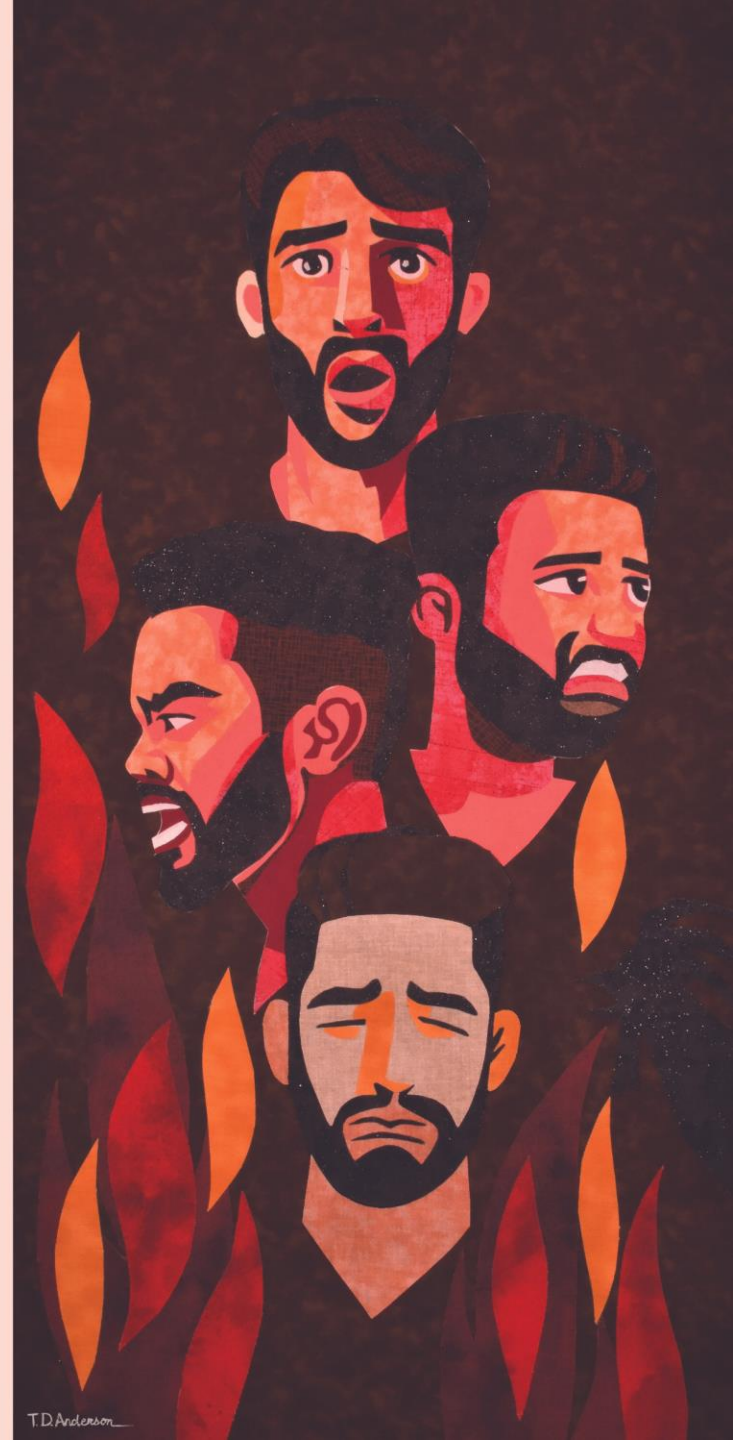


HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1)

NETTLETON

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!**



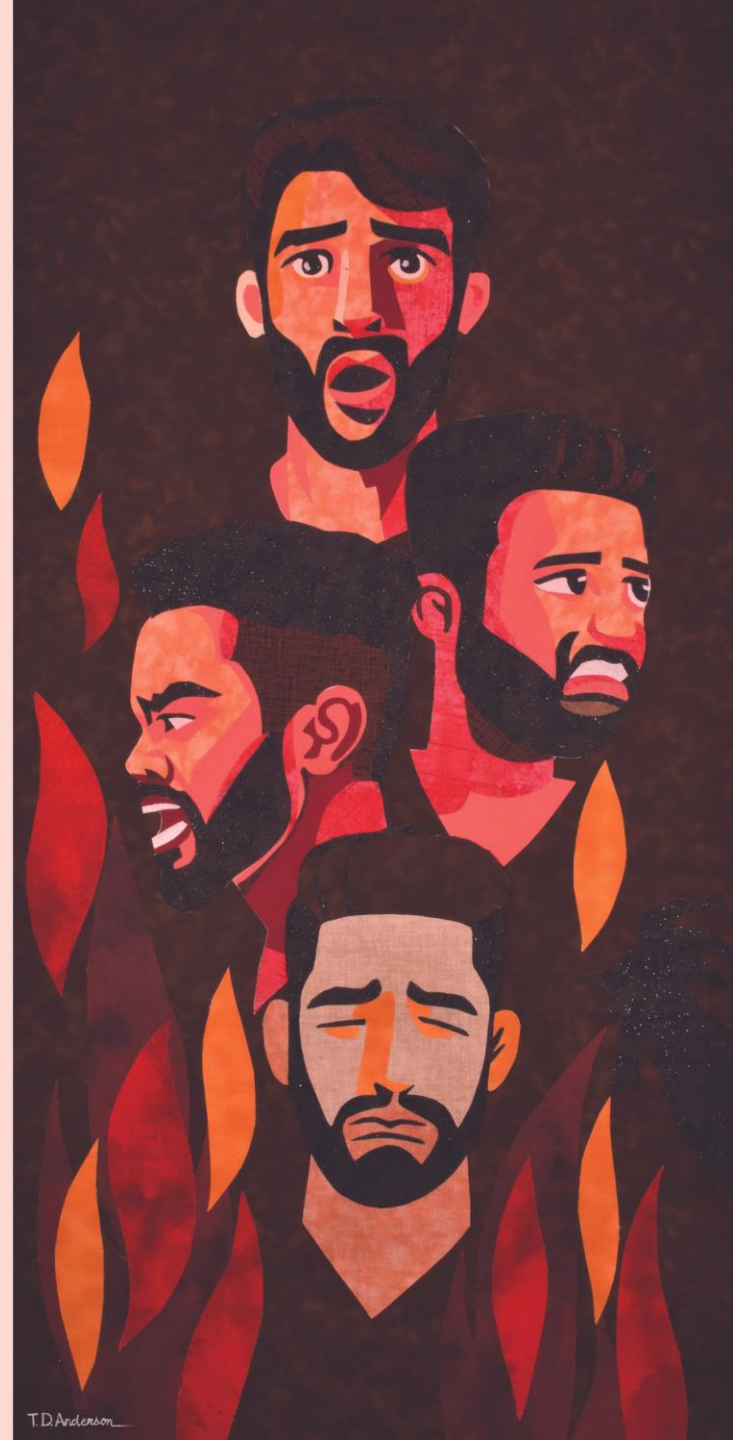
STATION 1: *John 13:1-17*

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"



Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.



CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Whose feet are you being
called to wash?*



STATION 2: *John 13:31-38*

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.



CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Who is it you love?



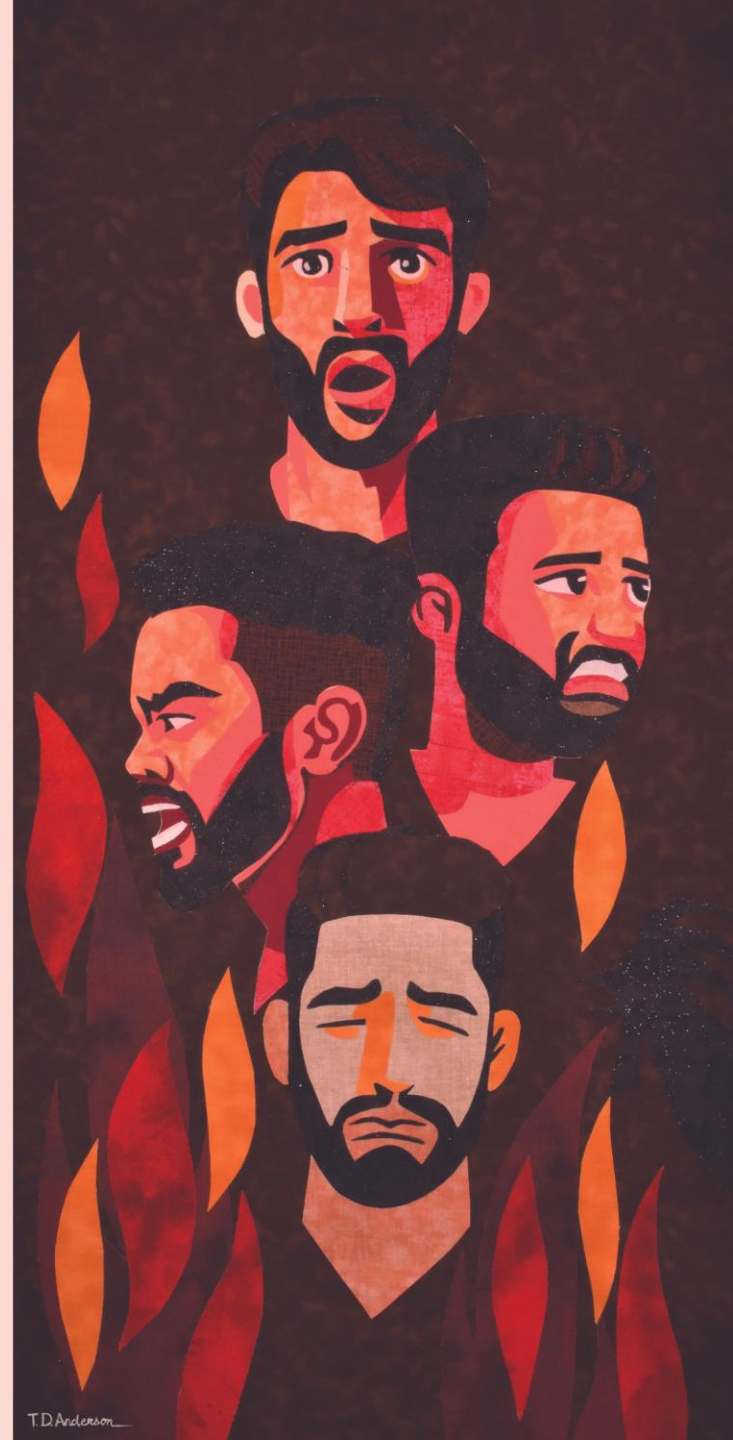
STATION 3: *John 18:1-11*

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who



Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”



CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Surely I would never betray you, never deny you. Surely? Beloved, give me the faith to doubt my righteousness. Give me the assurance to question, to examine myself honestly, to ask. Give me the confidence to wonder how I might betray your perfect love, to see. Give me grace to confess how my promises are broken, my heart broken. Give me the peace to be troubled by my smugness, and repent. Open my eyes to see that you see, you know, and knowing, you keep right on eating with me.



HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 2)

NETTLETON

**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.**



STATION 4: *John 18:12-18*

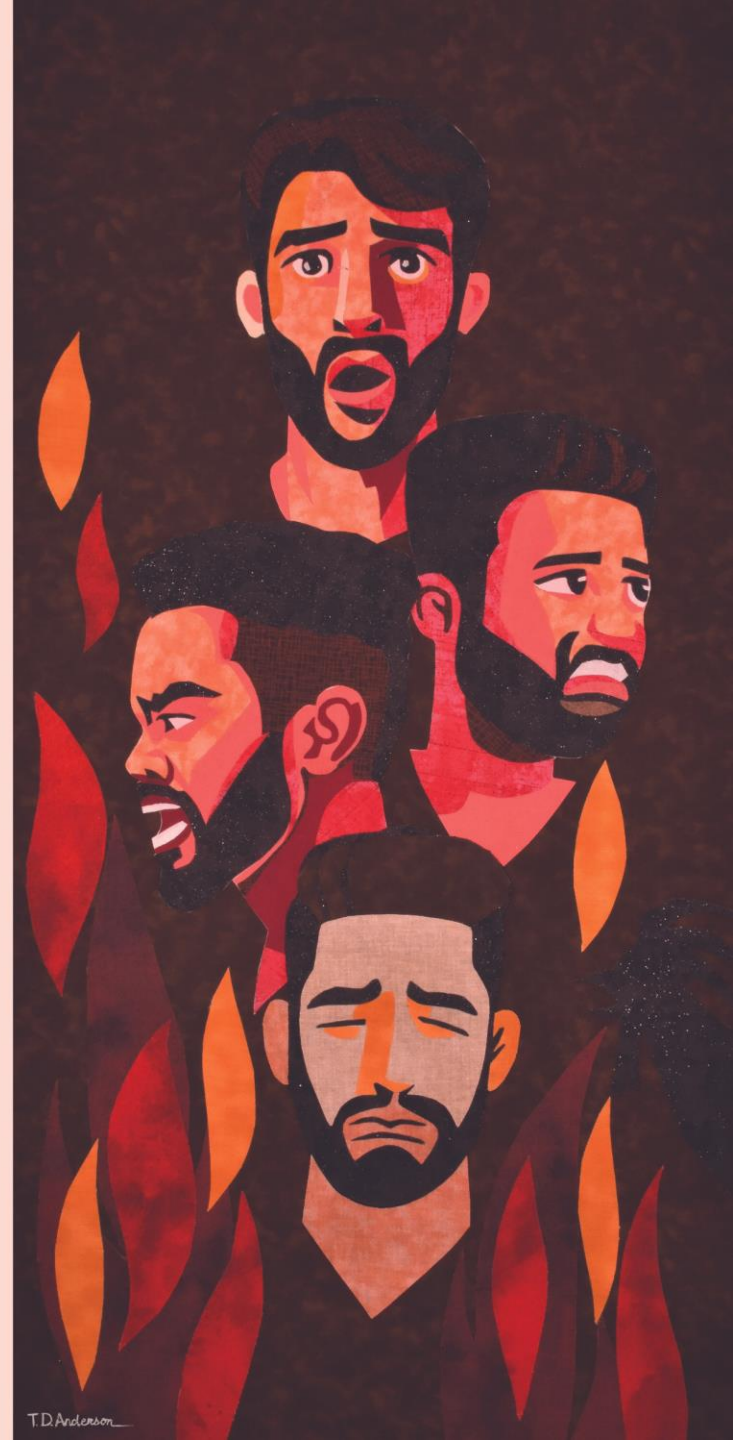
So the soldiers, their officer, and the temple guards arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.



CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Who do we deny?



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Prayer After Communion 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, for ever and ever. Amen.



MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Choir, with Kevin Kauermann, cello

Gethsemane Hymn

Getty & Townend



STATION 5: *John 18:25*

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.



CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

A PRAYER (UNISON)

Merciful God, we confess that, too often, we've been inactive bystanders in the face of someone else's victimization. Forgive us for choosing self-preservation over justice. Amen.



HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 3)

NETTLETON

**O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.**



THE STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

SONG OF LAMENT

Were You There

WERE YOU THERE

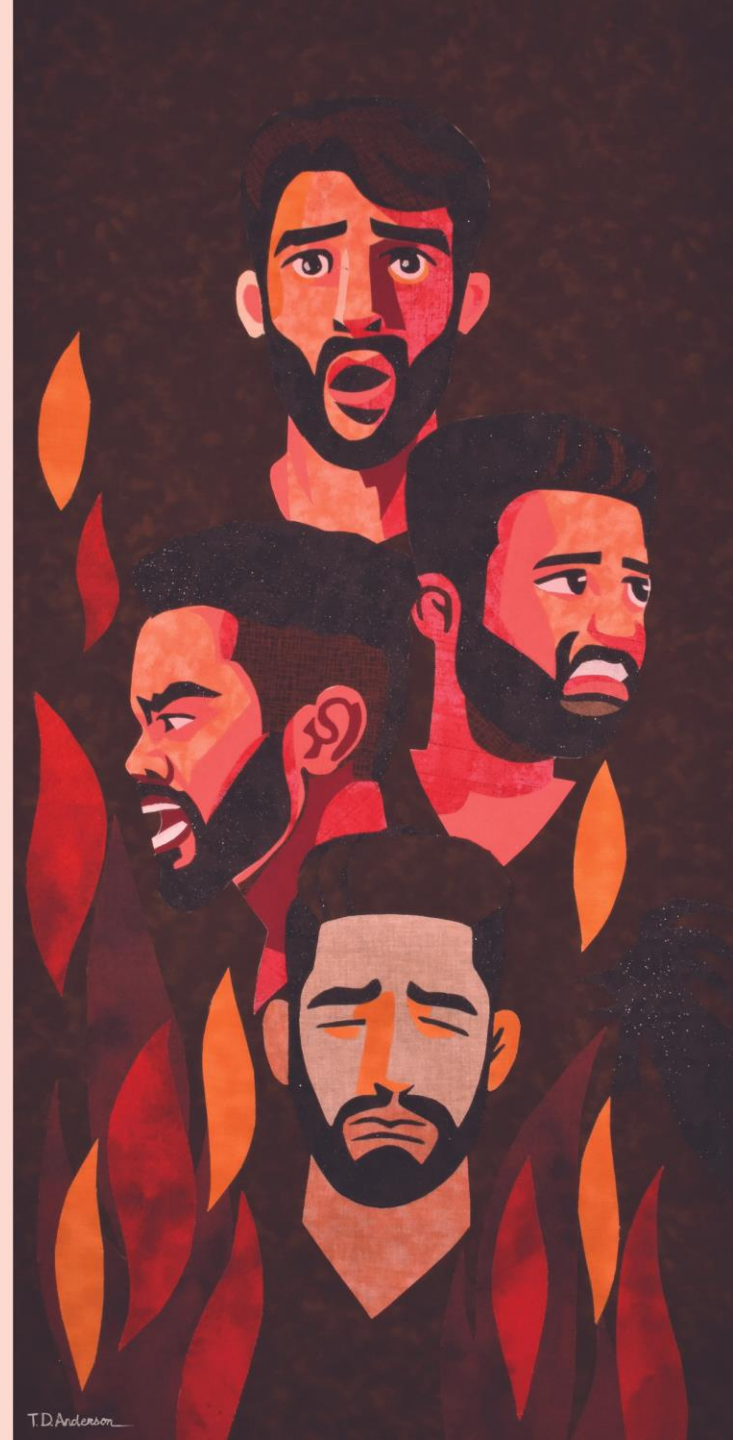
The stripping of the church is an ancient Christian custom symbolizing the nakedness and desolation of Jesus during his last hours. We depart in silence.



WORSHIP NOTES

Bulletin Cover Art *The Descent* is by T. Denise Anderson, Inspired by John 18:12-18; 19-27. Cotton, appliqué.

From [the top], Peter descends into more fear—the kind that does not help us to be our best selves. I depict him going from stunned to defensive and then to belligerent, navigating the full spectrum of the fight, flight, or freeze responses to perceived threat. By the time the cock crows as Jesus predicted (see if you can make out the bird's faint silhouette in the lower right-hand corner), Peter probably no longer recognizes himself. He must feel deflated and ashamed. At the end of his descent he is different, so I depict him differently from his three prior denials. He has much less fire in his countenance and can't even open his eyes to face what he's done.



The flames recall the fire where Peter warmed himself, but they also represent purification and illumination. Peter is forced to see himself as he truly is—as Jesus had already shown him. Who will he choose to be after this? When we are confronted with who we truly are, who will we choose to be after that confrontation? As we look at Peter’s journey, it’s my prayer that we will consider and meditate on our own. —Rev. T. Denise Anderson @tdandersonart

The **Stations of Peter** liturgy for a communal worship service is by Rev. T. Denise Anderson. It is accompanied by her original artwork. | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org



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 Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light. <https://www.unfoldinglight.net>

The **Invitation to Communion** is posted on the Third Space website. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>

The **Prayer After Communion** is written by Thomas Turner, and posted on everyday liturgy. <http://everydayliturgy.com>

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