

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD
*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

MAUNDY THURSDAY
HOLY COMMUNION and TENEBRAE SERVICE

March 24, 2016

7:30 PM

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. This evening's service is one of contemplation of our sinful nature realizing the gift of God's only son, Jesus Christ. May we all grow in faith and commitment to our Lord through this Maundy Thursday experience.

*Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

*A nursery with capable, nurturing staff is available in
the basement of the Meeting House.*



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*“Contemporary wisdom advises us that the cross is a downer,
and people won’t be attracted to such images of death.
If we are losing the cross, aren’t we also losing sight of why hope is possible?”*

~ Blair Monie, from the Good Friday installment
of the *Seven Days to Glory* adult curriculum.
pcusa.org, retrieved October 5, 2015

COMING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

Partita on *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

Johann Walther 1684-1748

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

All: God is the strength of my life: whom shall I dread?

One: I am seeking your presence, O God.

All: Do not abandon me to my foes.

**There are people who hate me;
there are things that control me;
there are places that frighten me.**

One: Trust in God. Stand fast and have courage.

All: Help us this night not to fall away.

**Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and give us the courage to withstand.**

HYMN of Gathering

An Upper Room with Evening Lamps

EVENTIDE

stanzas 1,2,3

An upper room with evening lamps ashine,
The twelve disciples, and the table spread;
Now in our turn, Christ bids us pour the wine,
And in remembrance, bless and break the bread.

We see by faith upon the cross displayed
His body broken and his blood outpoured;
In that dread robe of majesty arrayed
We gaze in worship on the dying Lord.

Dead for our sins, yet reigning now above,
Still to our hearts, we find his presence given;
Take for ourselves the pledges of his love,
Foretaste and token of that feast in heaven.

PLEASE BE SEATED.

WORDS OF WELCOME and INTRODUCTION

INVOCATION FOR THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

**All: Gracious God,
you give us the sun to illumine the day
and the moon and the stars to shine by night.
Kindle in us the flame of your love,
that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light
and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory;
through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.**

Hymn for Choir

When Jesus Wept

text: John 11:35 *NCH 192*

music: William Billings 1746-1800

PRAYER AT THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

One: O Gracious Light, pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

**All: Now, as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold your vesper light,
we sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity.**

One: You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Christ of God,

O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

THE LIGHTING OF THE TABLE CANDLES

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Spirit of Christ, be with us now.
We may try to avoid this hour of trouble;
we may not stay awake.

**All: Help us to face our fear of the cross on which you died.
Help us face the crosses we must carry to honor your life.**

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

One: Let us continue:

**All: We are your disciples.
And, we too, follow you with confusion and fear.
Strengthen us, we pray,
so that we may walk through life into death without fear;
through the night into eternal light. Amen.**

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Leader: All things are possible with Christ. The old self dies with Christ and the same Spirit that renewed his life renews ours. Friends, hear the Good News and believe; in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(If able, please hold hands during 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. Amen.

(= traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as "God," "Creator," or "Mother," as seems fitting.)*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*The elements of communion are taken by the process of intinction:
Please take a piece of bread, dip it into the chalice, then eat it.*

Communion Music

Journey to Gethsemane

Alec Rowley 1892-1958

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we have been blessed as a community, not only to hear Scripture read and proclaimed, but to gather at your table. Sustained in body, mind, and soul, send us out into the world to share the gospel with both our words and actions, so everyone we meet encounters your embodied word. Amen.

(If you need to move as the lights are dimmed during the next part of the service, please feel free to request the assistance of a deacon.)

TENEBRAE – THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

Please remain seated for this portion of the service.

CHORAL SENTENCES

Jesus at Gethsemane

text and music: Marilyn Perkins Biery, 1995

*Jesus at Gethsemane our tearful eyes can see;
we would join his vigil there, our hearts his sorrow share.*

*(Written for and dedicated to the Center Church Choir
while Mrs. Biery was our Director of Music/Organist.)*

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Scripture Reading

Mark 14:12-20

Cheryl Thomas

Hymn

There in God's Garden

stanzas 1 & 2

see insert on next page →

SHADE MOUNTAIN

SILENCE for Personal Reflection

THE SHADOW OF AGONY OF SPIRIT

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:36-45

Cheryl Thomas

Hymn

Journey to Gethsemane

stanzas 1 & 3

No. 219

REDHEAD

SILENCE for Personal Reflection

THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

Scripture Reading

Mark 14:53-65

The Rev. Sandra Olsen

Hymn

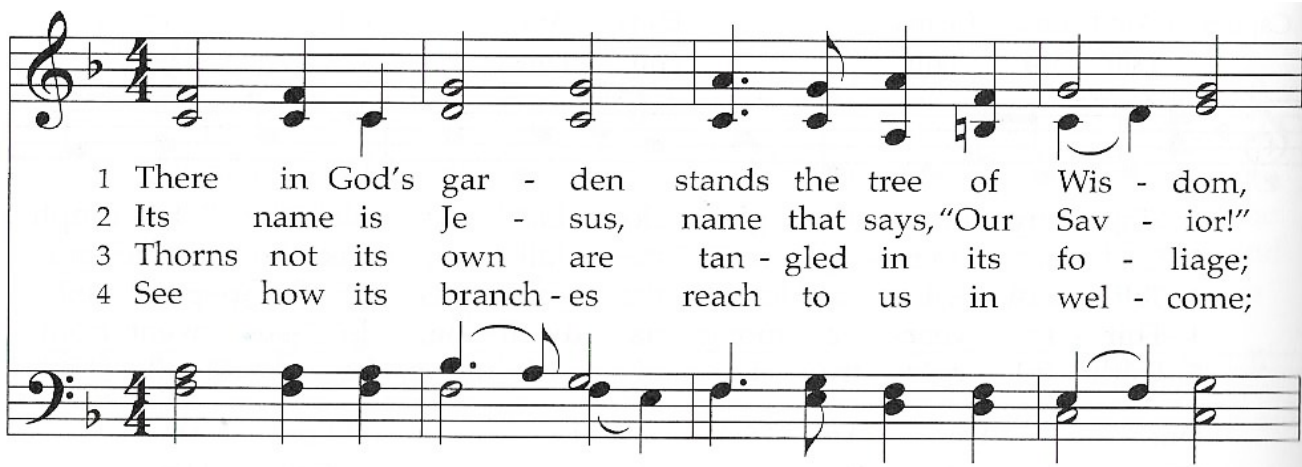
My Song Is Love Unknown

stanzas 1 & 2

No. 222

RHOSYMEDRE

THERE IN GOD'S GARDEN



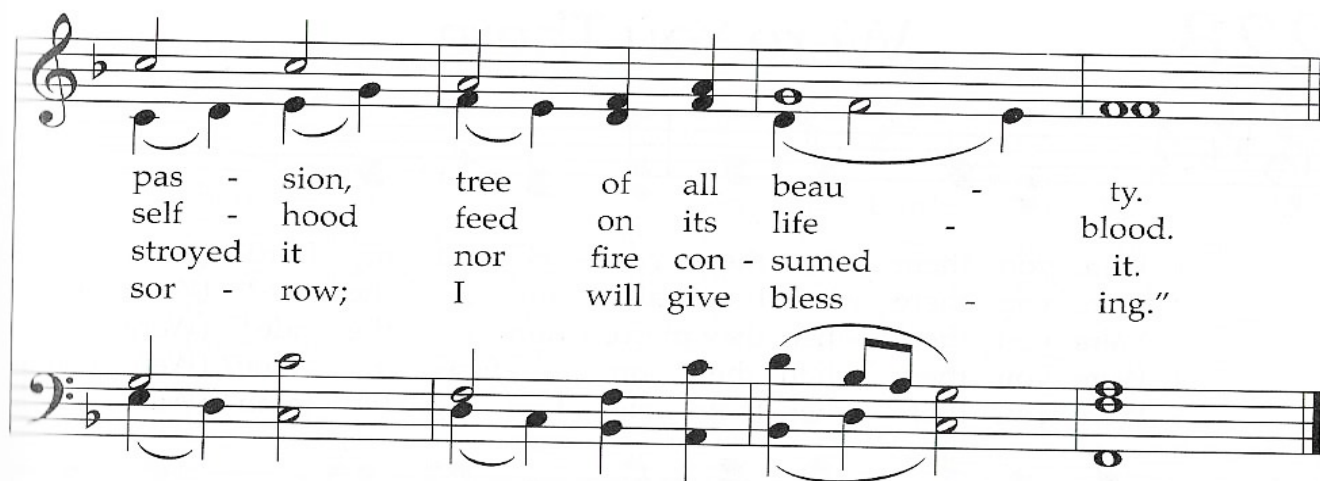
1 There in God's gar - den stands the tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - fering;
 our greed has starved it; our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



tree of all knowl - edge, tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness; give me all your



SILENCE for Personal Reflection

THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:54-62

The Rev. Sandra Olsen

Anthem

Surely, He Hath Borne our Griefs

Carl Heinrich Graun 1704-1759

... and carried our sorrows.

SILENCE for Personal Reflection

THE SHADOW OF MOCKERY

Scripture Reading

John 19:1-16

Jim Oliver

Solo

The Crucifixion, Op. 29, no. 5
 from *Hermit Songs*

Samuel Barber 1910-1981
 Text: 12th Century

Greta Moorhead, mezzo soprano

*At the cry of the first bird they began to crucify Thee, O Swan.
 Never shall lament cease because of this.
 It was like the parting of day from night.*

SILENCE for Personal Reflection

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:33-43

Jim Oliver

Musical Petition

Jesus, Remember Me

Jacques Berthier, 1981

Please sing this petition three times.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.' repeated twice. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the melody.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

SILENCE for Personal Reflection

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Scripture Reading

John 19:28-30

The Rev. Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker

Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

stanzas 1,3,4

No. 224

HAMBURG

SILENCE for Personal Reflection

THE SHADOW OF BURIAL

Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:57-60

The Reverend Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker

SILENCE for Personal Reflection

EPILOGUE

Were You There?

Brian Trant

The 2015-2016 Warburton Choral Scholars

*Nadia Briones, soprano; Genevieve Clements, alto;
Maurico Chavez Ferretiz, tenor; Andrew Boisvert, bass*

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Please leave the Meeting House silently.

Our thanks to Deacon Patricia Anderson, Ushers Andre Keitt and Sara Markham, Readers Cheryl Thomas, the Rev. Sandra Olsen, and Jim Oliver, and the fine musicians who participated in this service.



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING Congregation. "We include into full participation in the life of this church persons of any age, race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and physical, emotional and mental capacity" (from the statement adopted October 23, 1994.) In recognition of the richness of backgrounds of our congregation, a **DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES** will find expression in our worship services. Center Church offers an **OPEN COMMUNION**. Adults and children from all religious backgrounds are invited to partake.

FREE PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services at the Travelers Plaza Garage off Prospect Street (next to the Hartford Club.) The garage closes at 1:00pm (12:00pm June through August). Free on-street parking is also available on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street each Sunday.

REST ROOMS are located in the basement of the Meeting House. Please use the stairs in the southeast corner of the building. For safety, please have an adult accompany your child to the restroom.

CHURCH SCHOOL is held at the Church House (60 Gold Street) for preschool to 12th Grade. Children are to remain with their families in the Meeting House during worship until they depart for Church School following the Children's Moment. Please pick your child up promptly at 12:00pm. For their safety, children will remain with their Church School instructor until an adult picks them up.

CHILDCARE and NURSERY care are provided by trained, capable, and nurturing staff and volunteers, and is available in the Meeting House basement for infants and toddlers (up to two years of age.) A nursery without staff is also located on the second floor of the Church House.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES are held in the Church House (60 Gold Street) at 8:45am. Announcements regarding Adult Education classes are announced in our publications.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS to the sanctuary is via the lift outside at the south end of the portico. If possible, please call the church office in advance for assistance in using the lift.

Please feel free to confer with a minister regarding our **INQUIRER'S CLASSES** for **POTENTIAL MEMBERS, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS** or **COMMITMENT CEREMONIES**. The latest issue of **CENTER CHURCH NEWS** is available in the literature rack at the back of the Meeting House and at the Church House (60 Gold Street).

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)

CENTER CHURCH, 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Library Hours: Wednesdays, 9:30am to 11:30am, Sunday 9:45am to 10:45am,
or by appointment.

P 860.249.5631 ★ F 860.246.3915

www.centerchurchhartford.org

Minister: The Reverend Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker (ext. 202)

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

Interim Director of Music/Organist: William Ness (ext. 204)

Warburton Director of Outreach Ministries: Nathan Fox (ext. 205)

Director of Faith Formation: Jana Russo-Priestley (ext. 210)

Office Administrator: Marie Ferrantino (ext. 209)

Bookkeeper: Jamie Maheu (ext. 201)

Receptionist/Office Assistant: Monique Young (ext. 200)

Office Assistant: Frances Burton

Sexton: Thomas St. Amant

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