

The First Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
Canton Center, Connecticut

April 9, 2009

7:30 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

PRELUDE: "All in the April Evening"

-Roberton

CHORAL INTROIT: "Holy Love"

-Pepper Choplin

Senior Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(responsively)**

This shall be a day of remembrance for you.

You shall celebrate it as a festival to God.

We will pay our vows to God before all the people.

We will offer our sacrifices of thanksgiving.

This is a time for remembering the Last Supper.

You are called to the table to celebrate with Jesus.

We have gathered to break bread together.

We will lift up the cup of salvation.

This is the hour when we are recalled to the command:

You shall love one another, as I have loved you.

We remember that Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

In covenant with Christ, we seek to serve.

*HYMN 159 (*Pilgrim*)

"Alone Thou Goest Forth, O Lord"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in **unison**) followed by

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors):

On this day, O God, you link us with sisters and brothers who celebrate the Passover, even as we remember an upper-room gathering that began a new observance. We thank you that on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took a loaf of bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Similarly, he declared a new covenant in his blood and directed us to drink, remembering his death. Take us back to that room that we may know Christ's presence and be transformed in this hour. In Jesus' name, we pray and also saying, *Our Father...*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:7-20

ANTHEM: "Ah, Holy Jesus"

-Lani Smith

Senior Choir

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation: **(responsively)**

Let us come to this table of communion not because we must, but because we may.

Let us sit together in humility and thanksgiving rather than in pride or possessiveness.

Let us confess, not that we are righteous, but that we love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to remember him.

Let us come, not that we are strong, but that we are needy;

Not that we have any claim on Christ, but that he invites us to receive his grace and experience his presence.

Let us worthily partake that he may be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Prayer

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (in **unison**)

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at this table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen us in faith, increase our love for one another, and empower us so that we may go forth at the end of this service of worship in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Golgotha"

-Larkin

Senior Choir

THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

The Office of Tenebrae dates to the early Fourth Century. The gradual extinguishing of the light is symbolic of the flight of the disciples, the dark hate of Jesus' enemies, and the death of Jesus on the cross. The moment of total darkness symbolizes the days Jesus was in the tomb. The relighting of the single, central candle (Christ Candle) is the prophecy of Easter.

(Congregation **please remain seated**
during the singing of the hymns)

SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

HYMN 150 **verse 1** (*Pilgrim*)

Matthew 26:20-25

"O Love, How Deep..."

SHADOW OF DESERTION
HYMN **150** **verse 2** (*Pilgrim*)

Matthew 26:31-35
“O Love, How Deep...”

THE AGONY OF THE SOUL
HYMN **150** **verse 3** (*Pilgrim*)

Luke 22:39-44
“O Love, How Deep...”

THE UNSHARED VIGIL
HYMN **150** **verse 4** (*Pilgrim*)

Mark 14:32-41
“O Love, How Deep...”

THE HOUR IS COME
HYMN **179** **verse 1** (*Pilgrim*)

John 17:1-6
“Were You There?”

THE PRAYER OF JESUS
HYMN **179** **verse 2** (*Pilgrim*)

John 17:15-22
“Were You There?”

THE ARREST AT THE GATE
HYMN **179** **verse 3** (*Pilgrim*)

John 18:1-5
“Were You There?”

THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS
RINGING OF THE BELL

Mark 15:16-20

The light is returned in anticipation of Easter.

*POSTLUDE: “Remember Me”

-Govenor

(*All who are able, please stand)

THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO LEAVE IN SILENCE.

The Rev. Susan M. Prichard Mary Lou Keefe	Interim Minister Organist; Director of Music
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PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT’S SERVICE

THE DEACONS (ushers/greeters): Geri Bunnell, Curt Johnson, Lydia Petersen, Dave Ayres, Cynthia Griggs and Dan LeGeyt.

SPECIAL THANKS to the members of the choir, to Craig McAllister who made the bread used in our communion service, and to Dr. Larry Carlton, our lights dimmer.