



**Maunder Thursday**

**Because He Loved**

John 13:1-17

April 9, 2020



**BROOK HILL**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8946 Indian Springs Road  
Frederick, MD 21702  
301-662-1727

brookhill@bhumc.org    www.bhumc.org

***Connecting People to Jesus in body, mind and spirit***

WELCOME

**CALL to WORSHIP (by Joanna Harader) – (unison)**

**We are Jesus' disciples, following him even as he moves toward the cross. Even as he wraps a towel around his waist. Even as he kneels to wash the filth from the feet of his friends. We are Jesus' disciples, longing to be faithful even as the night grows dark. Even as betrayers loom. Even as the powers that oppose the way of Christ press in around us. We are Jesus' disciples, struggling to love others even as Jesus loved us. We are Jesus' disciples, gathered here to worship God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.**

**HYMN #292 "What Wondrous Love is This"**

**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.**

**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 life  
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay aside his crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.**

**To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.**

**And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

SCRIPTURE: John 13:1-17

MESSAGE: Because...He Loved – *Pastor Dana Werts*

**HYMN #2036 “Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart”**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.**

(Repeat)

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”  
let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”**

(Repeat)

**Give thanks. Give thanks.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (based on John 12:47; 13:1, 34-35 by Moira Laidlaw)

God’s love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus – Savior and Lord – who at his last meal with his disciples gave them – and us – that new commandment: *“...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.”*

Merciful God,  
we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak ...  
when we have failed to serve as Jesus served;  
**forgive us.**

When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us;  
**forgive us.**

When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with  
our lips and then denied him by our actions;  
**forgive us.**

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

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

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.

**Thanks be to God!**

**LITURGY for WHEN WE CANNOT MEET** (©2020 by The Order of Saint Luke. Prepared by Beth Fender, OSL; Elizabeth Moore, OSL; and Dwight Vogel, OSL. Permission granted for reproduction in print or on the web by including this permission statement.)

### **First reading:**

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

*Light the candle.*

**All: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You are our Risen Lord in whom light has conquered darkness.**

*Sit silently in the light, feeling the power and presence of the Risen Christ.*

### **Second reading:**

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

*Hold the Bible.*

**All: Here in our hands is the story of God's covenant of steadfast love with God's people. We are assured of God's presence with us at all times and places – even in the midst of fear and difficulty.**

*Sit quietly and absorb the stories of God's love and grace that can sustain you wherever you are.*

### **Third reading:**

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (John 7:37-38)

*Hold the glass of water in your hands.*

**All: Without water, there can be no life. In creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the water and brought forth light. God brought John to the Jordan River to call us to repentance. We were nourished in the water of the womb. We were baptized by water and the Spirit into God's family. Water reminds us of the gifts of creation that God has so abundantly given us, and of the love and grace we have all received.**

*Drink the water slowly. Feel it flow into your body. Know that God's love is flowing into your body and soul right now.*

**Fourth reading:**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

*Take a piece of bread in your hands.*

**All: Christ broke bread and fed the multitudes. Christ broke bread and formed a new covenant with his closest friends and with all who break bread in remembrance of him. Christ was made known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Bread reminds us that, just like individual grains of wheat are gathered together to make a single loaf, we who are scattered are one body in Christ.**

*Break and eat the piece of bread that you are holding. Remember the times you have received bread in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Remember those who gathered with you. Remember the presence of Christ in that moment. Be assured that Christ is with you in every moment of your life. Sit silently and allow Christ's love to surround you.*

**Let us pray:**

*In the silence after every petition (marked by . . .), specific names or situations may be spoken aloud or held closely in the heart.*

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, you speak to us words of life. Call forth in us rivers of living water and feed our deepest hunger. In trying times, in times of loneliness or confusion, in times we feel most alone, remind us that we are never alone, for you are with us always.

Hear us now, and pray for us in our weakness with sighs too deep for words,  
as we lift up:

- \* Those whom we love – those present with us and those from whom we are separated . . .
- \* The prisoners, and those held captive physically, mentally, or spiritually . . .
- \* The sick and the suffering . . .
- \* Those who care for the sick, both medical caregivers and families who wait and watch with them . . .
- \* Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, the loss of freedom, the loss of security, the loss of a livelihood, or the loss of a sense of order and control . . .
- \* Those with more questions than answers, and all who long for your guiding light for their path . . .
- \* The lonely, the isolated, and those who long for a loving touch . . .
- \* Those whose remaining days on this earth are few, and for those walking in the valley of the shadow of death . . .
- \* Those whom we too easily forget, and those whose needs are known only to you . . .

God of compassion, hear our prayers; fill us with your grace, and inspire us to be instruments of mercy and hope, for we pray in Christ's name. **Amen.**

### **Hymn TFWS #2223 "They Will Know We Are Christians"**

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**Blessing –**

In these days of anxiety and uncertainty, may we go forth in Christ's name into all our interactions (digital or otherwise). May we be for the world the body of Christ, broken and shared to be a blessing for all. May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May God look upon us with kindness and give us peace. Amen.