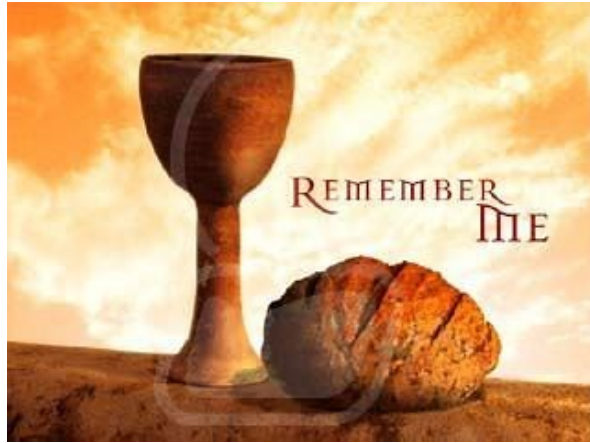


**AT YOUR TABLE SERVE ONE
ANOTHER COMMUNION.**

As you pass the bread say, "This is the body of Christ given for you." As you drink from the cup say, "This is the blood of Christ shed for you."



Leaving the Table:

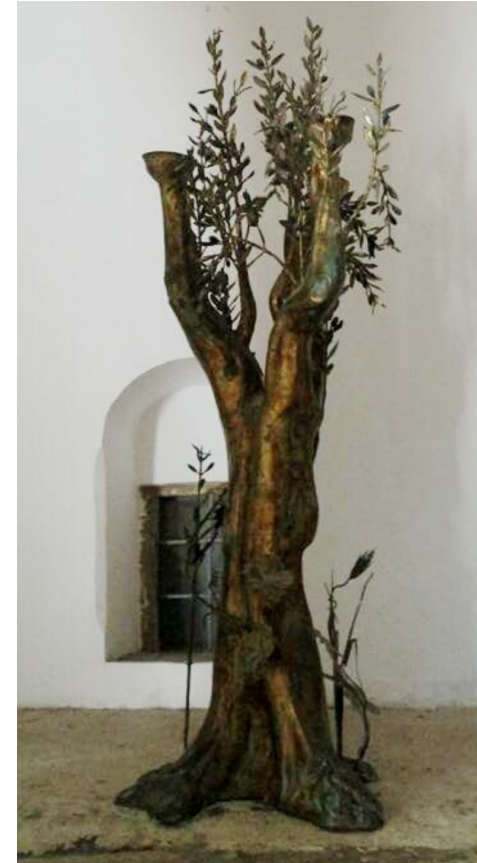
Jesus left the table with his friends and went to the Garden of Gethsemane. As you leave the table, you are encouraged to leave and do three things:

1. Be a blessing (a benediction): whoever usually does the clean-up/dishes has the night off! Everyone else pitch in to be the blessing and serve like Jesus.
2. If there are flowers on the table, smell them to remember Jesus in the garden. Say a closing prayer. Jesus' prayer was "Not my will be done but yours God" Make this your prayer tonight. Now what do you need to give to God before bed and let it be God's will and not yours?
3. Don't forget to post pictures or stories to the Church Facebook page to share your experience with others.

Christ United Methodist Worship Booklet

April 9, 2020

Maundy Thursday



The "Tree of Life"

Found in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.
An olive tree with wheat sheaves and grape vines
representing the institution of Bread of Heaven and
the Cup of Salvation

Pre-gathering instructions:

You are encouraged to prepare a special meal. Whether that means cooking a dish special to your family or ordering out from your favorite LOCAL restaurant – make it something you haven't done recently. Set the table with the fine china, add a table cloth, put some flowers on the table, light candles. TURN OFF THE TV and other background distractions. [Parents – maybe that just means using actual dishes instead of paper plates, and ordering pizza instead of a can of SpaghettiOs – no judgment!]

Also have a place to wash your hands as part of this dinner together – either a towel and basin, a cup and bowl, hand sanitizer, or a near-by sink. You'll want a way to dry your hands – this is part of the service.

Have the food ready before you begin.



Pastor Bridget: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here

All around the table: Come Holy Spirit, be poured out on us.

Pastor Bridget: Pour out your Holy Spirit on the gifts of bread and wine.

All around the table: Come Holy Spirit, be poured out on these gifts.

Pastor Bridget: Make these gifts be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

All around the table: By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Pastor Bridget: Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. And now we pray as Jesus taught us:

All around the table: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation. For Thine is the kingdom, and the glory, and the power forever. Amen.

Pastor Bridget: Jesus emptied himself so that our joy might be full. He fed the hungry, he healed the sick, he ate with sinners, with the scorned, the forgotten, he washed the feet of his disciples, and gave us this holy meal as a sign of his presence that abides with us still. By his baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to us – your Church, and delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night – this special night we remember – that Jesus celebrated the Passover with his friends, when he gave himself up for us, he took some of the bread from the table, and gave thanks to God, he gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

All around the table: We remember and are thankful.

Pastor Bridget: When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

All around the table: We remember and are thankful.

Pastor Bridget: It is in our remembrance and our gratitude of Christ’s mighty acts for us that we then offer ourselves in praise as holy and living sacrifices, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All around the table: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

HOLY THURSDAY A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER...

This is a night like no other. It’s a Holy Thursday. A night of washing, of remembering, of eating, and of prayer. Tonight, we remember Jesus washed feet (that’s where the word Maundy comes from). We remember Jesus instituted the Lord’s supper as he celebrated an important festival around a table with friends. We remember his betrayal and his prayer in a garden. Tonight, we remember.

WELCOME:

Welcome to this special evening! Enjoy your time together. Don’t forget to take some pictures and post them to the church’s Facebook page! Let us see your special set-up.



Remembering Jesus: John 13:1-12

“Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. ² Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. ⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷ Jesus replied, “You don’t understand what I’m doing now, but you will understand later.”

⁸ “No!” Peter said. “You will never wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t have a place with me.”

⁹ Simon Peter said, “Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!”

¹⁰ Jesus responded, “Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹ He knew who would betray him. That’s why he said, “Not every one of you is clean.”

¹² After he washed the disciples’ feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table.”

Pastor Bridget: This is why we are made and when we do it we find that it is good and brings us joy every single time. God made the world and gave us bread and created the fruit of the vine from which we get our drink. God made us in the divine image. When God’s people were held captive God delivered them and made a covenant with them to be their sovereign God. While they wandered in the dessert God fed them the bread of heaven – Manna and as they entered the promised land they found grapes.

Tonight, with people all over the world, in all time zones, in homes around our town, our county, our state, and our world, and with all the company of heaven we praise God’s name and join the unending hymn:

All around the table: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor Bridget: God, you are holy, and your son, Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, is blessed. When humanity, and each of us, turned away from you and abused the very good gifts you have given us you gave us Jesus as your crowning gift.

Celebration of Communion:

Pastor Bridget: Let us pray: God, we confess that we come to this table having denied you like Peter, having betrayed you like Judas. We come unclean, even if we have clean hands we have hearts that need your cleansing from our sin. Now in the silence of our hearts, we confess our sins to you.

[Silence.]

Our Loving God is merciful and gracious, endlessly patient, loving and true, showing mercy to thousands, forgiving our sins, transgressions, and granting us pardon. Amen.

Pastor Bridget: The Lord is with you.

All around the table: And also with you.

Pastor Bridget: Open your hearts to the Lord.

All around the table: We open them to the Lord.

Pastor Bridget: Let's give thanks to God.

All around the table: It's what we are made to do – to give our thanks and praise to God.

A CLEANSING ACT:

Before we begin our meals we will take time to be like Jesus. Now more than ever in our world we understand the importance of hand washing. Let's each take a moment to wash our hands – for 20 seconds. After washing have someone else dry your hands as a symbolic act of Jesus' washing and drying the feet of his disciples. [You may also want to use hand sanitizer after the symbolic act.]



Remembering Jesus – Learning Why...

John 13:12-16

"He [Jesus] said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? ¹³You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. ¹⁴If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. ¹⁶I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them."

Table Talk:

As you begin your meal, discuss the following:

- Why did Jesus wash feet?
- Jesus says we must do as he does. We don't go around washing feet every day. What ways can you serve others in your daily life?
- If you had to give yourself a grade on how often and how much like Jesus you serve others, what would your grade be and why?

Remembering Jesus: John 13:21-30

²¹ After he said these things, Jesus was deeply disturbed and testified, "I assure you, one of you will betray me."

²² His disciples looked at each other, confused about which of them he was talking about. ²³ One of the disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was at Jesus' side. ²⁴ Simon Peter nodded at him to get him to ask Jesus who he was talking about. ²⁵ Leaning back toward Jesus, this disciple asked, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It's the one to whom I will give this piece of bread once I have dipped into the bowl." Then he dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son. ²⁷ After Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." ²⁸ No one sitting at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus told him, "Go, buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So when Judas took the bread, he left immediately. And it was night.

Table Talk:

- Has there ever been a time when you were betrayed by a friend or loved one? If so how did you handle it? If not, how do you think you would?
- Can you think of a time when you have betrayed or turned your back on Jesus?

Remembering Jesus: John 13:31-35,

"³¹ When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Human One^[b] has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One^[c] in himself and will glorify him immediately. ³³ Little children, I'm with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—'Where I'm going, you can't come.' ³⁴ "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. ³⁵ This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

Participants are encouraged to finish MOST of the meal, leave at least a part of bread and a sip of drink.

