



April 17, 2025
Maundy Thursday

Welcome! We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music *...as we settle into sacred time and space*

Ring the Bell

Words of Welcome & Singing Bowl

***Call to Remembrance**

Come, remember how Jesus gathered at table with friends.

We come to receive the bread of life, the cup of blessing.

Come, receive the tender service Jesus models for us.

We come to be challenged by the command to love one another.

Come, contemplate the many ways we might embody the love of God.

Bearing witness to Jesus' suffering deepens our experience of resurrection.

Let us worship together, reflecting upon the life of Christ –

Remembering both what discipleship may cost and what it may reap.

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

***Opening Hymn (NCH #539) “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”**

verses 1-5

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Centering Ourselves

...in stillness and breath

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Gracious God, we gather this evening as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. We come with dry and thirsty spirits. Through the breaking of bread and pouring of cup, your grace sustains us. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in a covenant of faithfulness. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ – our teacher, savior, and friend. Amen.

Moment of Silence

we continue in quiet prayer...

Sung Response

“Kyrie Eleison” (*Kyrie eleison = Lord, have mercy*) *Marty Haugen*
cantor sing once, all sing twice more

♩ = 72-76

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 72-76. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son. The first system shows the beginning of the piece. The second system shows the continuation of the piece, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics for the second system are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Assurance of Grace

***Passing the Peace**

...online and onsite: smiles, eye contact, gestures (refraining from touch)

Hearing Sacred Stories of Faith

Scripture Reading

A tapestry from John 13: 1–15, Luke 22: 15–27, John 13: 33–35

Pastoral Reflection

Special Music

“The Love of God”

Nicholas Mroczek

Responding To God’s Love

Invitation to the Offering

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards represent gifts made electronically.*



Offertory

“There is a Redeemer”

Green

***Offertory Response**

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

Sharing in Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

***Invitation and Prayer**

God be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

Loving God – you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth. We celebrate you – joining our voices with the wind and streams, animals and flowers, the living and the dead (pause), the stars, planets, and all members of creation – forever proclaiming your expansive love. Amen.

Words of Remembrance and Blessing

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing
Place your empty cup in a basket on a front pew, returning by a side aisle*

Communion Hymn (NCH #330)

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

all verses

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Everlasting God, we are grateful that you have invited us here as guests to a banquet, participants in your holy love. You inspire our singing, our praying, our acts of service. May our lives embody the life and ministry of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Praying with Jesus in the Garden

Scripture Reading

Mark 14: 32–42

Prayer for Faithfulness

Loving God, may we learn from Jesus the power of trusting your steadfast presence.

Faithfulness is hard. We sometimes fall asleep when we could be praying.

(cont’d...)

We run away when we could be staying.
Help us to see what you see, to know what you know.

We hear Jesus say, “O God, if it may be, let this cup pass from me. But if you will, I will drink it.”

Forgive us, and help us to become more aware of all that surrounds us.

Strengthen our wills so that we work to make your realm visible on Earth.

Send your Spirit to sustain us, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn (NCH #219) “Journey to Gethsemane”
verses 1 & 2

Benediction

Stripping of the Altar

*This liturgical act symbolizes our preparation
for facing Jesus' trials, crucifixion, and death tomorrow.*

Postlude “Journey to Gethsemane”

Montgomery

*We quietly listen to the Postlude...
...and depart in silence*

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE. In some Buddhist traditions, they accompany meditation and chanting. They now contribute to spiritual practices and well-being in many spaces.

PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

*For **Amy**, grandmother to Zoey, Eddy, and Finley Hintze-Graf, as she faces a breast cancer diagnosis.

*For **those struggling** to find adequate housing and transportation amid life's curveballs – may they find the support they need to get back on their feet.

*For Megan Adams' friend, **Farrah**, and family, still displaced 16 months after a house fire. Their newly repaired basement has now flooded due to a sump pump malfunction. May the way forward be gentler.

A New Book Discussion is Coming...

April 27 & May 4 | 11 am

May 15 & 29 | 6:30 pm

Join us for a post-Easter discussion of Jennifer Harvey's book, *Anti-Racism as a Daily Practice*. It is full of real-life stories that guide us in making antiracism an ongoing commitment for the well-being of our democracy.

Copies are available at Valley Bookseller (tell them you're with the St. Croix United Church book group and get 15% off) and the Washington County Library.



St. Croix Youth Choir—Launches in May!

For youth in 3rd—8th grades. Community kids welcome!

Wednesdays, 3:30—5:30 pm

Contact Telae with questions:

musicandyouth@stcroixunitedchurch.org | (612) 203-0859

(1st Annual)

Earth Day Circle at the St. Croix River

April 22, 5:30-6:00pm

Lakeside Park - near the Beach House

(95 Central Ave, Bayport. Click the QR code for directions.)



Recognizing both the harm we do to the Earth
and our capacity to connect and heal

Words, music, and movement from many sources

Led by voices of all ages

Linger after the circle for:

- Individual blessings of animals - all species welcome!
- Try out Gentle Tai Chi
- Trash cleanup along the river
- A gift of pollinator-friendly seeds to take with you

Co-sponsors: St. Croix United Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church
stcroixunitedchurch.org | bethlehemstar.org



Speaking of Good Friday | April 18, 6:30 pm discussion

An open discussion about the complex meaning and impact of Jesus crucifixion

We gather in candlelight to explore images of the cross and the reality of human suffering.

What meaning has Jesus' death had for you as a child and today?

Does Jesus' death influence your faith in God, in a greater power, in humanity? Come wonder with us.



Easter Sunday | April 20

Together, we marvel as new life and growth emerge out of death, loss and grief

7:30 am | early service at the river (near Lakeside Park beach house)

9:00 am | breakfast & a visit from the Easter Bunny

9:30 am | indoor Easter egg hunt


10:00 am | joyful worship with choir, organ, piano, trumpet & flute

All services (except early service on Easter) can be accessed online.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Carol Dusbabek (usher & communion server), Mary Horak Binger, Mary Ann Litfin, Cheri Schwartz (liturgists), Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson (communion preparers), Mary Maren Bjork & Mary Ann Litfin (communion servers), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sue Favilla (decorations)



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Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
 4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
 Richard Gillard, 1977
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

330

Let Us Break Bread Together

Acts 2:42

African-American spiritual

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

* "Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The communion stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.

Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD
 10.10, with refrain
 Harm. David Hurd, 1983

HOLY COMMUNION

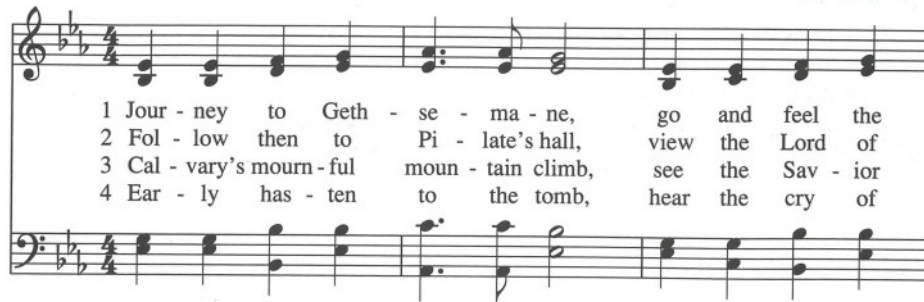
My God, have mer-cy on me.

The musical score is written for a vocal part and piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics underneath. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). Both parts feature a repeat sign with first and second endings. The first ending is marked '1-2' and the second ending is marked '3'. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines in both hands, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes.

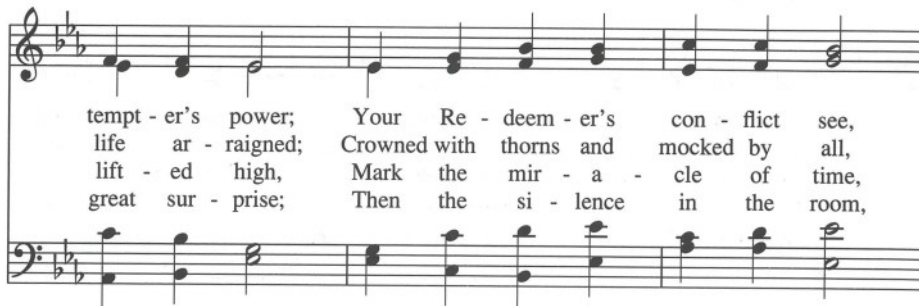
Journey to Gethsemane

John 18:1-20:18

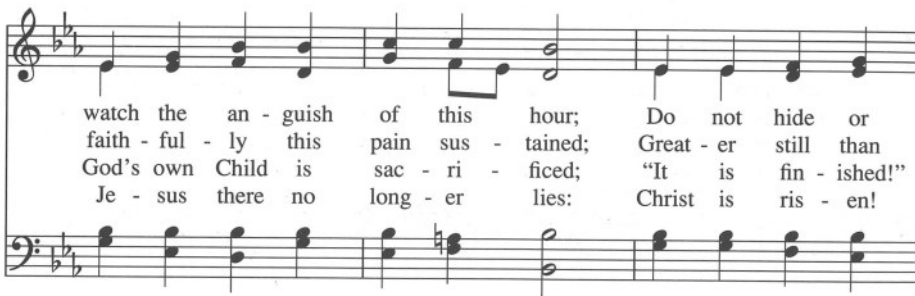
James Montgomery, 1820; alt.



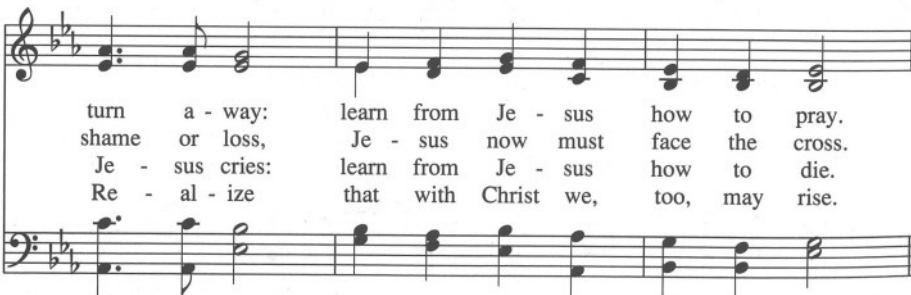
1 Jour - ney to Geth - se - ma - ne, go and feel the
 2 Fol - low then to Pi - late's hall, view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb, see the Sav - ior
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb, hear the cry of



tempt - er's power; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - rained; Crowned with thorns and mocked by all,
 lift - ed high, Mark the mir - a - cle of time,
 great sur - prise; Then the si - lence in the room,



watch the an - guish of this hour; Do not hide or
 faith - ful - ly this pain sus - tained; Great - er still than
 God's own Child is sac - ri - ficed; "It is fin - ished!"
 Je - sus there no long - er lies: Christ is ris - en!



turn a - way: learn from Je - sus how to pray.
 shame or loss, Je - sus now must face the cross.
 Je - sus cries: learn from Je - sus how to die.
 Re - al - ize that with Christ we, too, may rise.

James Montgomery, born of Moravian missionary parents, edited a newspaper in England. Risking imprisonment, he published articles advocating human rights, including the abolition of slavery. He wrote more than 400 hymns.

Tune: REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.
 Richard Redhead, 1853