

# Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

6:30 p.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.  
**Bold indicates congregational response.**

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "Are Ye Able" Bartlett

Call to Worship

Come, let us join at the table.

**Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.**

Come, a place is set for each of us.

**Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.**

Come, join the misfits, thieves, and liars

**Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.**

Come, young and old, from near or far.

**Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.**

Come, where shame is no longer welcome.

**Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.**

Come, where forgiveness and mercy triumph.

**Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.**

Centering Prayer

**O Most Gracious Host, God of banquets and feasts, upper rooms, dusty roads, we give you thanks for inviting us in this night. Still our anxious hearts, quiet our busy minds, and calm our restless spirits. Help us pull up a chair, remember your graciousness, and embody your peace this night and all the nights to come. Amen.**

+ Opening Hymn No. 655 "Come Away from Rush and Hurry"

Reflection

Feasting on the Word John 13:1-11 NRSVue

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks, be to God!**

The Blessing of the Water

Prayer

**Let us pray, Spirit of Christ, we pause to extend to you what feels most vulnerable in each of us. We ask you to pour out your compassion over us as you did water over the feet of your disciples. We may be prideful, uncomfortable, anxious, or depressed. We may be grieving or overwhelmed, but we ask for your help in attuning ourselves with your guidance, strength, and hope. Amen.**

Feasting on the Word Matthew:26:17-30 NRSVue

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks, be to God!**

Hymn No. 695 "As We Gather at Your Table"

Holy Communion

Invitation to Christ's Table

Communion Prayer

God be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks for the peace of God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

In the streets, in our homes, here beside this table,

**We give you thanks, O Holy One. We thank you for giving us a story.**

**Even when we do not understand its meaning, even when we doubt that it happened this way. Even when we want to rush ahead to the end. We know that you have given us this story in which to live and move and have our being.**

We remember that your story did not begin with a parade, or a meal in an upper room, or upon the cross.

**But began when you came to move over the waters of creation. We remember the tragedies that came to your people. And we know that you were not silent.**

You gave your people a story.

**You gave your people a rainbow.**

You gave your people a song.

**You gave your people peace.**

Gather here with us now, O Holy One, Speak to us through this bread and this cup. Remind us of all the stories we've ever heard about you. Imbue these symbols with your peace, so that we might find your peace within ourselves,

**Amen.**

Words of Institution (*1 Corinthians 11:23b-26*)

+ Sharing of the Bread and Cup & Hand Washing

*At this time, you are invited to come forward,  
have your hands washed.*

*Following the hand washing, or skipping it, you are invited to take communion.*

*The Lord's Table is open to all. All bread is gluten-free.*

*Communion tables have been prepared,  
with trays holding both white grape juice and red wine.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**O Holy One, there are no words to describe the mystery of this bread and cup. There are no sighs too deep to reveal what we feel in sharing in this feast. Thank you for gathering us together to remember that you are always present among us. We lift our hearts in prayer, toward your spirit and pray the Prayer that Jesus taught us:**

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, forever. Amen.**

Feasting on the Word

John 13:31-35 NRSVue

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**Thanks, be to God!**

Closing Hymn No. 748

*"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"*

Stripping of the Altar

Benediction

Matthew 26:36-46 NRSVue

Postlude

*"In the Garden"*

Peterson

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Today's Liturgy has been sourced from a variety of ministers throughout the UCC. Call to Worship by Michael Anthony Howard. **The Communion Liturgy No Answer: Prayers for Palm-Passion Sunday** was written by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook. The Blessing of the Water was written by Maria Mankin <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/maundy-thursday-a-april-6/>

### **Lenten Offering**

The Lenten Offering this year will be donated to Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley, Inc. Lenten offering envelopes are located by the offering plate for your donations.

### **Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt**

Following the service this evening, all children are invited to a Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt. Meet in the lower commons.

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Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Pastor

Alysha Petry, Liturgist + Brenda Herring, Organist

Sound/Video Tech, David Bean + Karen Tucker & Connie Thompson, ushers



MAUNDY  
THURSDAY

+ Maundy Thursday +

April 2, 2026 + 6:30 p.m.

Zion United Church of Christ  
Union, Missouri