



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**April 6, 2023**



**Maundy Thursday Worship Service**  
**1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE**  
**(302) 378-4446 [www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)**

# The Worship of God

## Welcome

### Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



*We gather for this service, in remembrance of Jesus' last night with his disciples on what has come to be called Maundy Thursday, and the sacrifice he made the next day, on what we have come to call Good Friday. Our Lord is revealed to us in the bread and cup of which we partake. It is a solemn moment – maybe one in which we would like to linger. Unfortunately, that is impossible, for we know that Jesus' death is imminent. During this*

*service of worship, the sanctuary will grow increasingly dark, and the communion table will be stripped bare, just as Christ will be stripped of his life on earth. Good Friday was inescapable for Jesus, for the powers of darkness surrounded him. May this service be a reminder for us all that, but for Jesus' death on the cross, the powers of darkness would surround and overwhelm us.*

## Preparing to Meet God

### Bells

#### Call to Worship

**L:** Our sinful nature makes us unworthy to come before God without a sacrifice.

**P:** ***We come before God nevertheless, because the Son of God offered his own life, as a sacrifice for our sins.***

**L:** Because of Jesus' death, God is willing to make our hearts clean as though we had never sinned.

**P:** ***We open our hearts and minds to the cleansing presence of the Holy Spirit, in affirmation of our Lord's atoning death.***

#### Opening Prayer

*We see these sacred elements on the table before us, O God, and we are reminded that we still have much to learn about true humility, as seen in Jesus' sacrifice. Forgive us for our pride which causes us to accept the name of Christ, without following his way. Thank you for the gift of prayer – that we may pray to you, and that you pray for us. Share your grace with us, that we may learn the virtue of humility, and experience the peace of a humble heart. In our Savior's name we pray. Amen.*

**\*Hymn of Praise #510***Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

1-Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,  
Thou fount of life, Thou light of all,  
From the best bliss that earth imparts,  
We turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.

3-We taste thee, O thou living bread;  
And long to feast upon thee still;  
We drink of thee, the fountainhead,  
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.

2-Your truth unchanged hath ever stood;  
Thou savest those that on thee call;  
To them that seek thee, thou art good,  
To them that find thee, all in all.

4-Our restless spirits yearn for thee,  
Where'er our changeful lot is cast,  
Glad when thy gracious smile we see,  
Blest when our faith can hold thee fast.

## Meeting God in the Word

**Dramatic Reading**

*The Trial as Seen Through Mary,  
Sister of Lazarus and Martha*

*Cheryl Shields*

**First Scripture Lesson**

*Exodus 24: 3-8*

*Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.' And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt-offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the Lord. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, 'All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient. Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, 'See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.'*

Behold  
the  
blood of the  
covenant,  
which the LORD  
has made  
with you

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.    **P:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Second Scripture Lesson**

*Mark 14: 12-16*



*On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and*

wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, “The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.’ So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.    ***P: Thanks be to God.***

## Meditation

# Celebration of the Lord's Supper

## The Invitation

You are invited to partake in this sacrament. Please obtain the elements of bread and wine/juice so that we might all commune together.

## Prayer of Consecration

L: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church family is scattered today, we are one in Christ. No matter where you are, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

***P: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on your grace. Send your Spirit of life and love to us this day, along with your blessing upon every table where your children shelter in place, that this Bread may be broken in love, and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. O Christ, may you live and breathe in us that we may honor you with our lives.***

## The Words of Institution

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

L: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God – the Bread of Heaven.

***P: We are one in Christ in the bread we share. (Pause to receive the Body of Christ.)***

L: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God – the Cup of Blessing.

***P: We are one in Christ in the cup we share. (Pause to receive the Blood of Christ.)***

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human

ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

**P:** *Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak of our faith and act in love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of a pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.*

## Responding to the Word



### Stripping of the Church

*We are at the close of this service. The purple fabric on the cross will be replaced*

*with black, and the communion table will be stripped, in order to forecast the events of Good Friday. It is meant to remind us of the great loss of Jesus' life and all that he meant to so many people. The last view of the chancel will be a light shining on the black draped cross, on which hangs a crown of thorns. Following this*

*scene, you are encouraged to sing a few Lenten hymns and reflect on the very significant events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, then exiting the sanctuary in silence when you are ready.*

## Hymn #100

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*1-When I survey the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count by loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*3-See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*2-Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*4-Were every realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

## Hymn #102

*Were You There?*

*1-Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh..., Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*2-Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh..., Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*3- Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Where you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh..., Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?*

*4-Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh..., Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

*5-Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh..., Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

