

New Castle Presbyterian Church Maundy Thursday Worship March 28, 2024

Words of Welcome & Invocation

Hymn #475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Verse 1)

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Station 1: Peter resists then receives the foot washing - John 13:1-15

Congregational Response

Station 2: Jesus foretells Peter's denial - John 13:31-38

Congregational Response

Station 3: Peter draws his sword - John 18:1-11

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we are convicted by our addiction to violence. You call us to wash one another's feet, but we can't seem to lay down our weapons. Whether we have picked up a gun, uttered harmful words about another person, or simply refused to acknowledge another's pain, we have betrayed the peace you left with us.

We confess our own complicity in the pain of our neighbors. We have built war economies that make conflict profitable. We grow all too comfortable with the justification of food and housing insecurity, with the persistence of racism and discrimination.

God of grace, have mercy upon us. Save us from weak resignation to these evils. Help us to lay down our weapons as Christ lays down his life. With open hands, may we be graced with your wisdom and courage.

Hymn #307 God of Grace and God of Glory, Verses 1 and 3

1 God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Station 4: Jesus is arrested and Peter denies Christ - John 18:12-18

Hymn #475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Verse 2)

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Station 5: Peter denies Christ again and again – John 18:19-27

Congregational Response – *The Descent* by Rev. T. Denise Anderson Silent Prayer

Station 6: Jesus is handed over to be crucified – John 19:1-16

Congregational Response – Remembering our Baptism

The Sacrament of Communion

Breaking of the bread - Matthew 26:26

[On the first day of Unleavened Bread] ²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Pouring of the Cup – Matthew 26:27-28

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, the words, "prone to leave the God I love" crack my heart in two. For try as I might, the truth of my life is clear. I will leave. I will deny. I will fall asleep. I will run and hide. Forgive me for leaving when love is close. Forgive me for allowing fear to win. Forgive this wandering heart of mine for wandering away. Through this meal of grace and goodness, welcome me back into the body of Christ. Wash me again and again in your mercy. Amen.

Hymn #475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Verse 3)

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Blessing

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