

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Thursday, April 2, 2026



Flow by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by John 13:1-35

11"x14" Acrylic on paper

We gather as God's people for worship and to share the gifts, strengths, and talents of all who are here while respecting the beliefs, opinions and struggles of others as we strive to love one another as God loves us.

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Sixth Presbyterian Church
Thursday, April 2, 2026, 7pm
Maundy Thursday- Agape Meal and Communion Service

About This Night

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." – John 15:12-14

On **Maundy Thursday** the church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. The name Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, referring to the "new commandment" Jesus taught his disciples (John 13:34). Worship on this holy night features the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and, in some traditions, an act of foot washing or another sign of mutual love and dedication, the Agape Meal, or Love Feast.

Welcome

Call to Worship

As we prepare our hearts for worship, keep silent and listen to the birds.

Hymn

"What Wondrous Love is This"

215

First Scripture Reading

Luke 22:47-53

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour – when darkness reigns."

Invitation to Christ's Table

What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Now hear the story of how this sacrament began. . .

On the night of his arrest. . .

Breaking of Bread

We pray that God uses the gifts of this food to nourish our bodies, hearts, and souls. Bless this bread, bless this wine, bless these towels, bless our people, bless our community, bless the world. Amen.

Communion

When offering the bread, you might say: "This is God's restoration for you."

When offering the cup, you might say: "This is God's joy for you."

Prayer After Communion

God of gatherings, life is much less frightening when we are together, when we care for each other, when we are able to listen to each other. Then we can find joy even in the most difficult days of our lives. We are grateful, for it is your love that brings us here, and we honor you and one another for this unending love. Take us back home, now prepared for the days ahead. For in you we can go through the darkest night of the soul and rise again in your love! Amen.

Continuing the Feast

Journeying to the Cross

Hymn "Were You There"

228, verses 1-5

Blessing and Sending

Leaving in Silence

Today we have received a difficult commandment from Jesus Christ: to go out and wash another's feet, to care for the vulnerable, and to offer our presence to our community. This is not easy, and alone we fail. But together, we will continue to serve each other and find strength. Together! Yes, together! May the love of God, the service of Jesus Christ, and the healing power of the Holy Spirit be upon us all now and forever. Amen.

Were You There



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you
 4 Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine? (Were you
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you



there?) Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 there?) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 there?) Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 there?) Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine?
 there?) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



O! Some-times it caus - es me to



trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
 there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
 there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
 there when the sun re-fused to shine? (Were you there?)
 there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

Church Announcements

Today's Service:

Liturgy: Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

April 3rd
Good Friday



Visit our prayer stations in the sanctuary!

Stop by Sixth Church anytime between:

9 to 11 AM

2 to 4 PM

or 6 to 8 PM

*Good Friday worship service at Church of the Redeemer
at noon (5700 Forbes Ave)*

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe, *Pastor*
Jenny Newman, *Director of Christian Education*
Shay Carter McGraw, *Music Director*
Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*
Kelly Johnson, *Office Administrator*
John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*

To be added to the church newsletter email list, request pastoral care, or for any other questions or concerns, please contact us here.

