

***No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***



**GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
128 East Baltimore Street
Greencastle, PA 17225
(717) 597-2983**

Pastor: Rev. Mark Ruzicka

Pastor: Rev. Bob Cook

Choir Director and Reader: Patty Stepler

Organist: Susan Alsip-Lawson

Ministers: All Those Present

Order of Worship for Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025, 7 pm

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35

WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

(especially to our brothers and sisters from Greencastle Presbyterian Church)

Video

Easter Upside Down: Mara
-by The Skit Guys

MISSION STATEMENT

Leader: Welcome to Grace Church where we are God's people.

**All: United through Jesus Christ on a journey to grow, to share our faith and serve others in the
Greencastle area and the world.**

PRELUDE MUSIC

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley -spiritual/Page

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us join at the table.

All: Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.

Leader: Come, a place is set for each of us.

All: Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.

Leader: Come, join the misfits, thieves, and liars.

All: Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.

Leader: Come, young and old, from near or far.

All: Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.

Leader: Come, where shame is no longer welcome.

All: Let us join at the table. Let us be set free.

Leader: Come, where forgiveness and mercy triumph.

All: Let us join at the table. Let us be set free. Let us worship God!

***PRAISE SONG** Go to Dark Gethsemane #220



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful, Mighty, Matchless One,
You have loved us to the end.**

**There was betrayal in our heart,
Yet You loved us anyway.**

**You knew we would deny You,
Yet You loved us anyway.**

**In our selfishness, we balked, we objected, we disapproved,
Yet You loved us anyway.**

**We sought to point the finger at anyone other than ourselves,
Yet You loved us anyway.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Renew our hearts.
Restore our call to service.
Rekindle our flame for justice,
that we may become Your people of peace.**

(A Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear and receive the good news.

The One who created us has declared:

There is now no condemnation,
no shame at the table of God.

There is only the love that makes us whole again,
only the love we offer others.

In God's name, we are forgiven.

All: We have been set free. Amen.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 (Old Testament page 694)

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live...

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your
midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35 (New Testament pages 131 & 132)

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to
the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from
God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that
was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him,
"You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him,
"One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean.
And you are clean, though not all of you."

For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."
After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table,
he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.
So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.
Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master,
nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.
If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them...

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.
Little children, I am with you only a little longer.

You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you,
'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

JOINT CHOIR ANTHEM

See Gethsemane -Lloyd Larson



SERMON
Rev. Bob Cook

SHARING OF PRAYERS, CONCERNS, JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

WE GIVE BACK TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Leader:
A new commandment you have given us
That we give ourselves for each other,
Just as you gave yourself for us.
That we love one another,
Just as you have loved us.
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God.

*(Presbyterian Church; if you brought envelopes, they are being collected at the entrance tables.
The loose change offering received during this worship will support
Grace's Free Closet held at Grace UCC. Please sign the attendance pads found
in the pews and pass the top sheet to be collected during offering.)*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Into the Woods My Master Went -Lutkin/Wells

***WE SING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**May the gifts we offer today
build Your Beloved Community among us,
That the world will know we are Yours.
May we love because You first loved us.
Amen.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good.
All: God's love endures forever.

Leader: It is right and a good and joyful thing,
Always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
Creator God, Maker of Heaven and Earth.
At the dawn of Creation,
You breathed life into dirt,
And glory sprung from the ground.
All: God's love endures forever.

Leader: From the fury and flood, You protected Noah.
As many children as the stars, You promised Abraham.
In the dreams of a slave named Joseph, Israel feasted during famine.
With the rod of Moses and the songs of Mariam,
You delivered Israel from slavery.
All: God's love endures forever.

Leader: In our need of forgiveness, You gave us Jesus.
He could speak to the wind and the waves.
He could heal with mud and dance on the water.
He preached good news to the poor.
He blessed the lowly.
He opened the way back to God.
All: God's love endures forever.

Leader: When he had been crucified,
When he was dead and buried,
You lifted Jesus from the grave,
And gave us resurrected life.

All: God's love endures forever.

Leader: With the roaring of Your love,
You set us aflame.

Your justice became our joy.
Your peace became our promise.

All: God's love endures forever.

Leader: Through the waters of baptism, You made us Your own.
In our lives together we carry Your witness,
And Your love comes to life among us.

All: God's love endures forever.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

On the night when Jesus was betrayed,
He gathered with his disciples in the upper room
Where an ordinary meal became an instrument of God.

At this table, Jesus broke bread with those who would betray him.
At this table, Jesus drank wine with the one who denied him.
At this table, Jesus communed with those who would abandon him.
At this table, Jesus gave a new commandment
At this table, we learn to love one another as God loves us.

Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to You,
Broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
This is the cup of the new covenant,
Poured out for you and for many
For the forgiveness from our failings
And hope for the new life to come.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
In remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus our Messiah,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again."

Leader: Pour out Your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup
That they might be for us the presence of the living Christ.
Pour Your Spirit upon us also that we may be one with Christ,
one with each other,
And one in ministry to all the world...until all arrive at the heavenly banquet of God.

Leader: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are Yours, O God, now and forever.
All: Amen.

Leader: Come for all things are now ready.

*(The elements are distributed to the pews.
We eat together at the cue of the pastor.)*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR COMMUNION

**O Lord, our God, in this holy mystery, You have given Yourself to us.
We are eternally grateful.**

**Empower us: that we may go into our world
to give it life...in the name of Jesus Christ,
who gave his life for us all.
Amen.**

WE GO OUT CARRYING GOD'S LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Now, may the love of God go with us.
May we carry God's love into the world where it is needed most.
May our lives bear a bright witness to the never-ending love of God.
All: Amen.

***PRAISE SONG** Beneath the Cross of Jesus #216

THERE IS NO POSTLUDE MUSIC – CONGREGATION LEAVES QUIETLY



The New Commandment: Service Prayers for Maundy Thursday was written by Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio North East, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Adapted by the Rev. Mark Ruzicka.

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The Reverend Ralph S. Geiman, Pastor, 1967-1995