

Responsive Prayer:

Eternal God, made known to us in Jesus of Nazareth, we come to this holy night recognizing that we share the self-centeredness, inattention and fearfulness of the disciples. We are more concerned about our own place in life than we are about others' well-being. We say and do things that hurt others. We exaggerate or belittle our own gifts. We feel cut off from others, by our own actions or theirs, by misunderstandings or deliberate intent.

We have been more interested in saving face or getting even than in accepting the reconciling love Christ offers. We are reluctant to admit mistakes, ask forgiveness or try new and better ways. Grant us courage to confess our limitations to one another as well as to you. Give us insight to understand ourselves, to face up to those attitudes and actions that have separated us from our best selves, from others and from you. We want to learn to love as you have loved us.

Prepare us, O God, to experience your Word as we hear again the tradition of our Jewish ancestors in the faith and as we recall Jesus' last supper with a group of disciples. Equip us to enter once again into the covenant tradition of those who would take seriously the example of Christ. May our deeds of kindness and service be offered as an outpouring of your love for all of us.

Draw us to yourself covenanting God, for we want to grow in love and good works. Unite us in words and actions that transform and empower. Write your truth on our consciousness so we cannot escape it. Sit at table with us so we cannot doubt your presence. Fill us with hope that turns from limitations of the past to embrace future possibilities.

Speak your Word to our spirits, that Jesus Christ may become a living presence and your eternal realm a present reality for us. Build hope within and among us, that we may provide encouragement to one another. Move us powerfully at Christ's table to become faithful disciples who stir up one another to love and good works. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The **LORD JESUS** on
the night when he
WAS BETRAYED
took a loaf of bread ...

1 Corinthians 11:23, NRSV



Maundy Thursday
March 29, 2018
7:00pm

**Oaklyn Baptist Church
Maundy Thursday Service
March 29, 2018 ~7:00pm
Pastor: Rev. Kelly Grimsley**

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: Amid all good things competing for our attention, where shall we go to find bread?

People: We come to the upper room, seeking a table prepared for Jesus' disciples.

Leader: Among all the activities we can choose, where shall we invest our time and efforts?

People: The church invites our discipleship, calling us into the body of Christ.

Leader: Among all who claim our loyalty, who encompasses the whole of life and truth?

People: God in Christ offers us wholeness, bringing all the pieces of our lives together.

***Congregational Hymn:** "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" #446

Unison Invocation:

Gracious God, in the quiet of these moments, in the peacefulness of this sanctuary, please speak to us. We pray we may feel your presence and know that you are near, O God. This is a night to remember, and in the remembering we pray that we may know the full meaning of these holy symbols that we will share. They represent so much love and forgiveness, so much pain and healing, so much of what is really important in our lives. May these moments that we share together tonight prepare us for understanding with even more clarity the sacrifice and gift of Good Friday and the incredible hope of an Easter Sunday. We come to your table because, like the disciples of old, we need forgiveness, we need words of assurance to bring a sense of meaning to lives that are often confused and feeling empty. O God, as we eat the bread and drink from the cup, may there be a personal, meaningful moving of our spirit toward yours. Move us to love more. Move us to sin less. Move us to always believe in the name of the one who first told us about the meaning of the bread and wine. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Exodus 24:3-8; Psalm 116:12-19

Music Video

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we are torn between the specter of Good Friday and the feast Christ spreads before us. We come with the sorrowful question, "Is it I?" We know the answer, for we have denied and betrayed. We have broken covenant and turned from grace. We are ruled by what seems to work at the moment, not by eternal verities. How can we ask for forgiveness when we find it so difficult to change? Good God, deliver us. Loving Savior, grant pardon and transformation. Amen.

***Music:** "Lead Me To The Cross"

Scripture: Mark 14:12-26

Message

Congregational Singing: "Just As I Am" #354

Responsive Reading (*See back cover for reading*)

Lord's Supper

***Congregational Singing:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #393

Benediction