

Words About Our Maundy Thursday Service

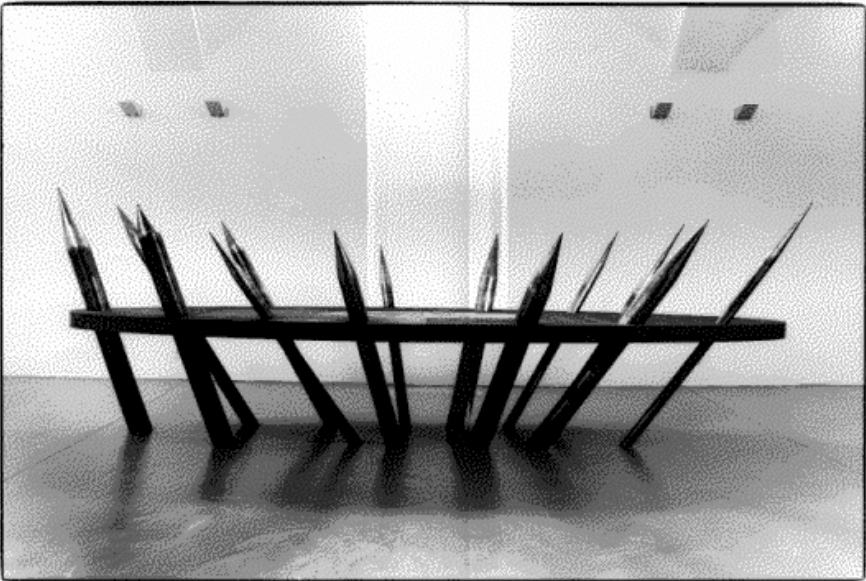
Maundy Thursday is traditionally observed as an institution of the Lord’s Supper. This evening, the lessons are read to retell the last days of Jesus and to remember his words to his disciples, his suffering, and his crucifixion. After each reading, a candle will be extinguished so that we may progressively enter into darkness. Finally, after the last reading, the bell will toll as we silently meditate in our hearts for the light of hope on Easter. At this time, your prayers are your own, for the concerns that are in you and upon your heart. After a few minutes, the lights will be turned up enough so that you may safely exit the sanctuary in silence, when you are ready to do so.

Thanks and Blessings to You!

Thank you for joining us this evening and for being a part of this Maundy Thursday Service in many different ways. Special thanks to everyone who organized and supported this evening’s Pot-Luck Supper!

Participants

Ministers	All of us here!
Pastor of St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church	The Rev. Louis. E. Sander
Interim Minister of Palisades Presbyterian Church	The Rev. Ray Bagnuolo
Organist and Choir Director	Michael Shapiro
Soloist	Naomi Anthony
Usher	Robert Rasmussen
Members of the Worship and Arts Committee of Palisades Presbyterian Church	



The Tenebrae Service

Maundy Thursday
April 5, 2007, 8:00 P.M.

Shared Worship Communities
St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church
Palisades Presbyterian Church

Luke 23: 44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Please deepen the silence as we prepare to hear
these words of Jesus the Christ

Words from the Cross:

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

"He said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:26-27)

"I thirst!" (John 19:28)

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

"It is finished!" (John 19:30)

"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Solo: *Were You There*

Naomi Anthony

Tolling of the Church Bell

(You are invited to pray, as you wish – but in silence. After a few minutes, the lights will be turned up enough so that you may safely exit the sanctuary, still in silence, whenever you are ready to do so.)

Leader: As we prepare to remember the sacred events of Jesus,
Let us remember who we are, here, now.

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

O Jesus, in your presence we discover who we are.
You wash our feet each day anew,
and each day, we learn just how reluctant we can be
to serve one another, as you have taught us to do.

We are so like your disciples,
Who often looked to their own interests,
even as you prepared to give yourself up
for the sake of all of humanity.

Our love scarcely suffices for those closest to us,
but our love grows in your grace and generosity,
as we, along with all creation,
enter into this feast you have lovingly, faithfully prepared.

Forgive us when we forget how all the universe
has been blessed by your triumph over the cross.
Grant us the grace to know you more deeply and to
serve others with hearts that beat powerfully in your name. Amen

Silent Confession

Choral Response

Declaration of Forgiveness:

***Hymn #322** Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***Offering to One Another of a Sign of Peace**

Hymn #513 *Let Us break bread Together*

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

V. Matthew 26: 36-46 In Gethsemane Marjorie Swann

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "Abba, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "Abba, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

People Sing Hosanna!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Leader:

You are holy, O God of Majesty, and blessed is Jesus the Christ. Born of Mary, Jesus *lives* with us. Eating with those who have found distance from God, he welcomes us all back into God’s presence. As we guide children with his teachings, he teaches us, again. Visiting the sick as he did, he heals us in ways beyond the physical limitations of these bodies of ours.

Dying on the cross, Jesus saves us from death, having changed the oppressor’s tool of execution into a symbol of promise and eternal life. Alive with us today, we rely upon him and his guidance. Remembering all this and more, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate Jesus: his dying, his rising, and his eternal presence among us.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you, broken in some ways as this bread will be, working in a fractured and hungry world, knowing that we are made whole in service to you. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Blessing of the Bread and the Cup:

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: “Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying, “This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the saving death of the risen Jesus, with us today.

Readings: New Revised Standard Version

I. Exodus 12: 1 – 14 Instruction to observe the Passover Mykia Sanders

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

This Evening’s Message The Rev. Louis E. Sanders

***Hymn 92** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Beneath the cross of Jesus / I fain would take my stand
The shadow of a mighty rock / Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon-tide heat, And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus / Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One / Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears / Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love / And my unworthiness.

II. Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34 A New Covenant Richard Hansen

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 10: 12-18 The Covenant Made By Christ’s Offering Richard Hansen

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting for all to come unto him. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Anthem Christ Our Passover is Sacrificed for Us John Goss

III. Psalm 16: 1-2, 12-19 The Cup of Salvation Dorothy Davis

I love the Lord, because God has heard my voice and my supplications. Because God’s ear is inclined to me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live. What shall I return to the Lord for all this abundance given 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 God’s people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of God’s faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of those who serve you. 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 God’s people, in the courts of the house of the Lord.

IV. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 The Lord’s Supper Jack Hoffmeister

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper – All Are Welcome at this Table

The elements of Communion will be taken by intinction, that is, dipping the bread into the wine (red) or grape juice white).

Great Thanksgiving:

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

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God.
People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Leader:

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise to the One who is with us always.

We recall that through the words of the prophets, the Spirit of God promised us a Redeemer, giving us hope for the day when justice would roll down like waters in a mighty stream. We rejoice now, for in Jesus Christ that day of rushing winds and waters is upon us and carrying us onward.

In thanksgiving and anticipation we praise you, and we join our voices with the choirs of angels, the prophets, the apostles, and the saints. We gather here in this sanctuary with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name in the great mystery of your presence.