

April 1, 2021 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday

Prelude

Lighting of Candle

HYMN: VU **376** *Spirit of the Living God*

Call To Worship

I love God, because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

Come and center yourself, in your breath and body. In this moment.

I come to my center, my breath, my body.

Come to remember that Jesus took time to sit, serve and connect with his friends on his last night with them.

We come to remember – in community of body and spirit – to sit, serve and connect with our community of faith.

The Psalmist wrote: I love God I love God, because God has heard my voice and my supplications. Because God has inclined to hear me, I call upon this Holy Spirit as long as I live.

We come to worship God who is love made known in Jesus of Nazareth and remember.

Opening Prayer

We follow the Way of Jesus with the disciples as we gather, in spirit, to support one another. Let us pray, Help us now, God, to become mindful of the whole of the Christian body. We are all parts of a larger whole. Help us now connect spiritually with the whole body as it gathers all

around the world, in homes and hovels, sanctuaries and streets, to remember. **Help our individual needs can drop away for awhile and allow us to take strength and give strength to being One in Christ's Body.**

Help us now, God, to become mindful of our particular community of faith. We are all parts of a circle of Jesus followers – some formal, some informal, some online and others in person. **Help our hearts take and give strength to the faith stories around us: unique and particular, and yet one with our story.**

We follow the Way of Jesus with the disciples as we gather, in spirit, to support one another.

Thanks be to God.

Reading from Scripture:

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19

Cultivating our Gardens

Scriptures

John 13: 1-17 and 31b-35...

We respond:

In ages past, disciples, prophets, priests and historians wrote down their faith.

This is a faithful witness of our ancestors.

Word of God for us today.

Thanks be to God.

Ritual with hands (Adapted from Gathering 71, Maggie Watts-Hammond)

Singing: VU 474 *The Son of God Proclaim*

Invitation to the Offering:

DOXOLOGY: VU 542

Prayer of the People

We want to be ready to follow where Jesus is leading,

Be with us Loving God.

We raise into our mind's eye those who suffer this Holy Week:

Loneliness that parches the heart.

(silence is held)

Illness that hinders the breath.

(silence is held)

Poverty that leeches the body.

(silence is held)

Anxiety that tenses the muscles.

(silence is held)

Isolation that freezes the mind.

(silence is held)

No matter who we meet, how we connect with others and how we feel God of love, help us to share the hope of resurrection even on the journey to the cross.

The Lord's Prayer

Singing: VU 182 *Stay with Us*

Blessing: VU 965 *The Lord bless thee.*

Postlude

Today's prayers were written (or inspired by) Heather Grobb, Maggie Watts-Hammond and David Sparks. They are used with permission and taken from Gathering, Lent/Easter 2021.