# First United Church

April 6, 2023 7:00 P.M.

# **Maundy Thursday**



Purpose: Building Relationships, Living God's Transforming Love.

16 William Street West, Waterloo ON N2L 1J3

Office: 519-745-8487 x 201
Email: office@firstunitedchurch.ca
Web Site: www.firstunitedchurch.ca

Chair of the Board: firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

# Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

First United Church, Emmanuel United Church, Westminster United Church and Parkminster United Church welcome you to this Maundy Thursday service of worship.

Participating in the service today are Rev. Andrea Allan, Rev. Brenda Torrie, Rev. Heather Power, Rev. Joe Gaspar, Rev. Fred Monteith, Kathleen King Martin, and the Gallery Choir of First United Church.

**Prelude:** These I Lay Down; Wondrous Love; Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love Arr. John Carter

### **Opening Prayer**

Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death. We come with his friends, the people who have followed him in every place and generation, to live once again this story of service and betrayal, of weakness and courage. We come to witness your love lived out. Be with us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

# **Foot Washing**

• **Hymn** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love VU 593

Scripture: John 13: 3-17

# A Body Prayer:

**One:** When the disciples came to the upper room, they had been walking for miles. They were tired and a little frightened, their hands were clenched and their feet were sore. Place your hand on your heart and take a deep breath in ... for God is as near to you as the air you breathe...and breathe out. And now take another deep breath as you feel your heart slow, for the journey of the day is over and you are already here.

All: Look upon us, Holy One, and let the shadows of our souls vanish before the beams of your light.

**One:** And Jesus came, hot and footsore but smiling: a day was ending and a new era beginning. Roll your shoulders forward and back – it's been a long day and you can relax in the presence of the Christ.

All: Look upon us, Holy One, and fill us with your love.

**One:** The disciples saw he had a bowl of water for their tired feet. Raise your right foot slightly from the floor and set it down – the foot that symbolizes a thousand journeys. Lift your left foot from the floor and set it down; the foot that crossed a thousand thresholds now crosses into the upper room.

All: Look upon us, Holy One, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom.

**One:** Set your hands upon your knees as you might if Jesus was kneeling before you with his bowl. Lean forward, as if you were leaning toward him as he leans toward you. Imagine he takes your feet in his hands, a touch of gentle grace that makes your feet feel fresh. Imagine the feel of water, warm enough to relax, cool enough to refresh.

All: All our desire is known to you, therefore what you have begun and what your Spirit has awakened in us, let us ask in prayer.

**One:** Raise your hands palms inward beside your face. Gently lay your left hand on your left cheek. Now, stretch your right hand out forward toward Jesus.

All: Look upon us, Holy One. We seek your face. Turn your face unto us and show us your glory.

**One:** Lower your hands into the prayer position, palms almost touching, thumbs toward your heart, leaving space between for the God you have known but do not yet know. Breathe once more into the presence of God.

All: Look upon us, Holy One. Then shall our longing be satisfied and our peace shall be perfect. Amen

**One:** Now rest your hearts – rest your hands upon your knees- as we prepare to share the meal that first began that night.

Adapted from a prayer written by Maggie Watts-Hammond, Gilmore Park U.C. Gathering Lent/Easter 2001

#### The Meal

• **Hymn** An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare VU 130

Scripture: Luke 22: 14-20

Words of Institution
Sharing the Bread and Wine

Music during Communion: Ave Verum Corpus W.A. Mozart

Gallery Choir

#### Service of the Shadows

Hymn Go to Dark Gethsemane

After each of the readings a candle will be extinguished.

Isaiah 53: 1-3

All: Stay with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (2)

Isaiah 53: 7-9

All: Stay with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 6-13

All: Stay with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 17-19

All: Pray with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 20-22

All: Pray with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 26-30

All: Pray with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 31. 33-35

All: Watch with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 36-42

All: Watch with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 43-46

All: Watch with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 47-52, 56b

All: Weep with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 57-58, 69-71

All: Weep with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

Matthew 26: 73-75

All: Weep with me, the night has come (x3)

And soon it will be morning. (x2)

You are invited to sit in the shadows as long as you wish. When you are ready please leave in silence.