

**MARCH 24, 2016
MAUNDY THURSDAY**



First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

WELCOME

HANDBELL PRELUDE

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel
Germany, 1653-1706

(As the Prelude is played, use this time to open your heart to the Lord's presence and purpose for you in this hour. Pray as you feel led; you may find the following prayer helpful for your preparation):

God of grace, we long to be obedient disciples, and faithful companions, awake and ready to serve even in the darkest hour. We long to follow in your way, even if it leads to a cross on a hill. In these coming moments, draw us closer to your presence, and further along your way. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Where Christ walks, **We will follow.**
Where Christ stumbles, **We will stop.**
Where Christ cries, **We will listen.**
Where Christ suffers, **We will hurt.**
When Christ dies, **We will bow our heads in sorrow.**
When Christ rises again in glory, **We will share his endless joy.**
There is no other way; **He is the only way.**

*HYMN #206

"This Is the Night"

My Neighbor

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-11

New Testament, Page 107

CONFESSION (responsively)

God of mercy and love, we confess:
we too easily claim the way of Christ,
all the while too readily following our own whims.
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy . . .** (silence)

You kneel to wash our feet,
yet we are more prone to look down in disdain
than to look up in service.
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy . . .** (silence)

You give us abundant blessings—
which we are more likely to keep for ourselves
than to share with those in need.
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy . . .** (silence)

We hear your command to love each other,
and still we complain and bicker and gossip.
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy . . .** (silence)

As we watch with You while the darkness encroaches,
help us remember what this journey means,
and count again the cost of love.

By your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial.

This we pray as servants of Jesus Christ,
who came to serve us in life, in death,
and in resurrection hope. **Amen.**

PARDON (responsively)

On this holy night, we have received the good news:
God has come in Christ Jesus to fill us with hope and peace,
to bathe us in grace and mercy.

**In remembrance, we commit ourselves:
to bring hope where despair resides;
to be servants to those who are broken;
to love as selflessly as we are loved by Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:12-20

New Testament, Page 107

ANTHEM

"Wondrous Love"

arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

The text of this anthem can be found in Glory to God, #215.

Chancel Choir

*SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:21-35

New Testament, Page 108

MEDITATION

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

ANTHEM

The Old, Rugged Cross

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

JuBellation Ringers

COMMUNION

We will commune by the ancient practice of intinction, dipping the bread in the cup.

Please remain seated if you do not wish to commune.

Gluten-free bread is available at the center station.

*As we are receiving the sacrament, worshipers are invited to join
the Chancel Choir in singing Hymn #507:*

*"Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.*

Come to the table of peace...

Come to the table of love...

Come to the table of hope...

Come to the table of joy..."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN #202

"An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare"

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MEDITATION

"Sit Here While I Pray"

Rev. Steve Clark

BENEDICTION

SILENCE

(Please depart in silence after the lights are turned on again)

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This evening's meditations come from *Stages on the Way: Worship Resources for Lent, Holy Week & Easter*, ©2000 Iona Community Wild Goose Resource Group. Thanks to Russ Buckley and Kelsey Wallace for assisting in presenting these reflections.

Elders and Deacons serving Communion:

Lorrie Fabrizio, Vicki Gansner, and Phil Heaver

Please join us for Easter Sunday worship:

- **6:45 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship** w/ communion at Crebilly Farm, 501 West Street Rd in West Chester
- **9:00 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship** at First Pres
(live broadcast on WCHE 1520AM and online at www.firstpreswc.com)
- **10:30 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship** at First Pres

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. As a community of faith, we strive to “above all, love.” As we worship God together, we pray that you will experience Christ’s presence in our midst, and that he will sustain you in the week ahead. A special welcome goes out to you if you are visiting. If you are with us for the first time, stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer to find out about the many opportunities available to you in the life of our congregation. We hope you will worship with us again next Sunday.

We invite you to sign the Friendship Register, which you will find at the center aisle of each pew. As you pass it to others in your pew, note who is sitting near you, so you may greet them by name. Please note that hearing aids and large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Maps showing available parking are in the racks in the Fellowship Hall.

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God’s grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.



Leading Us in Worship Today:

Steve Clark, *Associate Pastor*
Marcia Sommers, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*
Joyce Chen, *Organist*