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*North Haven
Congregational Church*

United Church of Christ

Holy Week



North Haven, Connecticut

An Open & Affirming Congregation

NOON PRAYER - HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024

Opening Sentences

O God, open my lips,

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise. (Psalm 51)

Those who wait for God shall renew their strength,

They shall mount up with wings like eagles:

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40)

Prayer

Let us pray:

Sustaining God, in the midst of our day,

And embraced by your world

We call upon your wisdom;

We draw upon your strength

We rely upon your grace.

Help us to continue faithfully in your way,

By the power of the Holy Spirit

And in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

V 142

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 p. 57

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.

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.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Silent Reflection

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we lift our voices in prayers of praise,
For you have raised us o new life in Jesus Christ,
And your blessings to us and to your world
Come in generous measure.

In our hearts and with our voices, we name before you that for
which we give thanks:

Specific events and people may be named.

Intercessions *Using response:* Gracious God, hear our prayer;
And in your love, answer.

Merciful God, you are close to all in need,
And by our prayers we draw close to you.

Claiming your love in Christ Jesus for the whole world,
We dare to pray for others.

Committing ourselves to care in his name for those around us,
We bring our prayers and concerns for friend and stranger:

*Prayers for specific people and events, both near and far, may
be offered.*

Gracious God, hear our prayer;

And in your love, answer.

Bountiful and merciful God,
Accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your
will;

Through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

**The God of peace be with us. Amen.
Bless God's name. Thanks be to God.**

Special thanks to Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music, for sharing his musical gifts with us in today's prayer service.

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Hymn: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

V 142

F Dm B♭ F C

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre - cious foun - tain,
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

F Dm B♭ F C F

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain F B♭ F C

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

F (A7) Dm B♭ F C F

till my rap - tured soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.



Please join us for these services this week:

Noon Prayer services will continue each day through Friday this week. We will have a Maundy Thursday service with communion and Tenebrae this evening at 7pm.

On Easter Sunday there will be a Sunrise Service at 6am at the gazebo on the Town Green. Our Easter morning worship service, with Choir and trumpets, will be at 9:30am