

Welcome to Derry Presbyterian Church

We proclaim God's Word, share God's love, and practice God's justice.

Tonight's service of "Seven Actions" is an alternative to a traditional Tenebrae liturgy. Based on a service from the Iona Community in Scotland, the liturgy focuses on the account of the Last Supper in John 13. Seven candles are lit during the service in response to the seven actions noted during the narrative. The lit candles offer a reminder of the presence of light even in the darkness of the eve of Good Friday.



March 28, 2024

7:00 pm

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Maundy Thursday Worship Service

- PRELUDE *Komm, süßer Tod, komm selge Ruh, BWV 478* J. S. Bach,
Dan Dorty, Director of Music and Organist arr. Virgil Fox
- GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Stephen McKinney-Whitaker
- INTROIT *God So Loved the World* Carl J. Nygard, Jr.
Sanctuary Choir
- CALL TO WORSHIP Shawn Gray
This is a night to remember.
We remember the Passover Jesus shared with His disciples.
We remember His new covenant of broken bread and cup.
We remember His night alone in the garden in prayer.
We remember His arrest and trial.
We remember His suffering and the denial of His friend.
We remember His sinless hands which were spread wide in blessing
and then nailed high on a cross to cancel our sins.
We remember this night and thank God for Jesus' presence with us.
God of light and truth, grant us peace as we gather tonight.
May we draw closer to you as we remember the service and suffering of Christ.
- *HYMN 206 *This is the Night* MY NEIGHBOR
- *PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) Rev. McKinney Whitaker
**Lord Christ, in the evening of this day, forgive us for our lack of attention to you,
our absence of word and action in following you, and our denial of your place
within our lives. Help us to know your Spirit is with us, your gracious forgiveness,
and your strength in our hearts, that we may more closely follow you. Amen**
(*silence for personal confession*)
- *ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (based on John 12:47 and 13:1) Rev. McKinney Whitaker
Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world"
and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."
Friends, remember your baptism and believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled and forgiven.
- *SONG OF RESPONSE 215 *What Wondrous Love is This* (verse 1) WONDROUS LOVE
**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**
- ACTION ONE: WASHING**
- SCRIPTURE READING John 13:1-5 Shawn Gray
- PRAYER (*unison*)
**Tonight, O God, we recall that your Son arose from the table to descend to
the floor. We rejoice that in his humility, he left the things of heaven for the
dirt and dust of this world. Give us humility, we pray, that we might discover
and follow Christ's way and not our own. Lord, hear us and fill us with your truth.**

The first candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

ACTION TWO: CLEANSING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:6-11

Shawn Gray

MEDITATION

Rev. McKinney-Whitaker

PRAYER (*unison*)

Lord God, help us to accept love when it is shown, and your love as it is shown through Christ. Lord, hear us. Lord, cleanse us through your grace.

The second candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

ACTION THREE: SERVING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:12-17

Shawn Gray

MEDITATION

Rev. McKinney-Whitaker

PRAYER (*unison*)

**Gracious God, teach us how to serve as we are served.
Lord, hear us and fill us with your humble love.**

The third candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

ACTION FOUR: BETRAYING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:18-30

Shawn Gray

PRAYER (*unison*)

Loving God, we pray for those who are persecuted and betrayed for their faith. Lord, hear us and fill us with your strength.

The fourth candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

ACTION FIVE: LEAVING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:31-33

Shawn Gray

PRAYER (*unison*)

Jesus told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them. In silence, we remember those who have gone before us, who have brought the Gospel to us, who have served Christ amongst us, and who now are in that place prepared also for us. Lord, hear us and fill us with your hope.

The fifth candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

ACTION SIX: LOVING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:34-35

Shawn Gray

PRAYER (*unison*)

**Jesus commanded his disciples to love, even as he knew that betrayal and denial were close at hand.
We pray for those who are rejected and unloved ...
We pray for those who are betrayed by those whom they love ...
We pray for those who deny their faith through fear ...
We pray for those who, this night, and every night, fear for their lives ...
We pray for those for whom this night will be their last ...
Lord, hear us. And fill us with your compassionate love.**

The sixth candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

ACTION SEVEN: DENYING

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:36–38

Shawn Gray

MEDITATION

Rev. McKinney-Whitaker

PRAYER (*unison*)

O God, you know that it is often easier and safer for us to remain silent when we might challenge. To speak with quiet voices when they need to be louder. Help us, we pray. Re-call us to your service, as Christ recalled your servant Peter by the lake-side, that we may be fed and then feed others. Lord, hear us and fill us with your courage, your love and your humility. Help us in the night-time shadows of fear to know the continuing light of your presence, that we may be seen and heard as your people. Amen

The seventh candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

ANTHEM

Once Upon a Tree
Sanctuary Choir

Pepper Choplin

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May you know that the Lord is with you.

And also with you.

May you open your heart to him this night.

May you know his love within you.

Even in the foreboding presence of darkness

May his light shine forth.

...we join with voices around us and beyond us in the song of love's command:

Live in charity and steadfast love. Live in charity, God will dwell with you. (repeat twice)

....We pray these things in Christ's name who taught us to pray saying

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All our bread and juice is gluten, soy, dairy, and nut free.

Please eat the bread and drink the cup as you are served.

Share these words as you serve one another:

*At the bread: **The bread of heaven.***

*At the cup: **The cup of salvation.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that even in the darkness of this night, your light shines. We rejoice that we have shared with Christ around his table, and we pray for his strength as we continue to be his body in this world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 14:32–34

Rev. McKinney-Whitaker

*HYMN 204

Stay With Me

STAY WITH ME

Stay with me, remain with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

(sing three times and then continue to sing as you depart the sanctuary)

There is no final blessing tonight as the events continue into tomorrow and then to Easter morning and the resurrection. The candles remain lit as a sign of hope, as we depart into the night.