

A Virtual Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 9, 2020 7:30 p.m. (or, the time of your choosing)

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian (PCUSA)

Niles Community Church (PCUSA)

Morton Grove Community Church (PCUSA)

(Pre-Worship Preparation: As you able, set-up your worship space. Print or make available this order of worship. Prepare a plate with Bread and a Cup of grape juice/wine for each person participating. You will be invited to partake of the communion elements. May your place become our shared 'Upper Room.' Blessings, Pastor Steve Pierce)

Prelude Music:

"Who You Say I Am"

- Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

Opening Prayer

Ever-gracious God, we gather in this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an Upper Room long ago. We come bearing the marks and burdens of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us, in the breaking of the bread, of our need and of your great sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and Redeemer. Amen

Offering of Music:

"Can't Stop Your Love"

- Worship Central

This Day Through the Eyes of John: 13:1-17

"Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet"

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷ Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

⁸ “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

⁹ “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

A Time of Confession and Centering

Leader: God of mercy and love, when Judas went out that door, a part of each one of us went with him.

Response: We have all betrayed Jesus in one way or another.

Leader: And when the disciples sat unmoving at the table, each waiting for the other to wash their feet, a part of each one of us sat passively with them.

Response: We have all sat unmoving, waiting for someone else to do what we should be doing ourselves.

Leader: And when Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, a part of each one of us joined him in that rejection

Response: We have all resisted the new hierarchy of Jesus, where those who are greatest become loving servants to all people.

Leader: Forgive us for immobility, for our fear. Help us to again return to following Jesus who would lead us to hope, forgiveness and eternal life.

Response: Amen.

Reflecting Music:

“Your Mercy”

– Paul Baloche

