

Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Seven Actions: A Service of Prayer and Holy Communion
March 28, 2024



Prelude

Welcome and Introduction to the Service

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The cross?

Leader: The bread?

Leader: The pain?

Leader: The joy?

Leader: The Gospel?

Leader: The love?

Leader: The light?

Leader: The darkness?

People: We will take it.

People: We will break it.

People: We will bear it.

People: We will share it.

People: We will live it.

People: We will give it.

People: We will cherish it.

People: God shall perish it.

Pastor Jessica

***Unison Opening Prayer:**

God of light and truth, grant us peace as we gather tonight. May we draw closer to you as we recall again the service and suffering of Christ. As we move from the brightness of the day's light to the enfolding darkness of the night-time, help us to know your light in our hearts, that in our need for forgiveness and strength, your grace may be poured out for us. 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 is in our hearts. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:**

An Upper Room Our Lord Did Prepare

Introduction to the Seven Actions from John 13

Pastor Jessica

This evening, we will encounter John's account of the last evening that Jesus shared with friends. In John 13, the gospel speaks of actions taken, and decisions made. Some were inspired by goodness, and others were not. As the words are read, may we consider where our place might be within the narrative and discover the hope, we have in the one who welcomes us to this table and showers us with no greater love than this.

Action 1 – Washing, John 13:1–5

Belinda Vallus

Prayer Response:

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 so we, too, may follow Christ's way. Amen.

The first candle is lit.

Action 2 – Cleansing, John 13:6–11

Elaine Petroski

A Meditation – “Feet? Yes, Feet.”

The second candle is lit.

Action 3 – Serving, John 13:12–17

Maria Pompura

A Meditation – “The Blessedness of Following Christ, Who Came to Serve”

The third candle is lit.

Action 4 – Betraying, John 13:18–30

Jolene Keefer

Prayer Response:

Loving God, we pray for those who know betrayal, who know persecution, who know what it is to live on the margins and be hurt by those close to them. We especially lift the abused, the scared, and the neglected. Help us remember them tonight. Lord, hear us. Fill us with your strength. Amen.

The fourth candle is lit.

Celebrating the Lord's Table

Invitation:

Pastor: Christ invites us to share in bread and cup.

People: Christ invites us to share in service and humility, love, and blessing.

Pastor: Christ invites us to share in strength and renewal, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

People: We gather here in faith not because we have earned a seat at this table but because this is the table of grace.

Hymn of Preparation – Come to the Table of Grace, verses 1,3,4

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing the Feast Together

Action 5 – Leaving, John 13:31–33

Royce Jackson

Prayer Response:

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, fill us with your hope. Amen.

The fifth candle is lit.

Action 6 – Loving, John 13:34–35

Billie Kissel

Prayer Response:

Jesus commanded his disciples to love, even as he knew that betrayal and denial were close at hand. We pray for all those tonight who need to know they, too, are loved. Amen.

The sixth candle is lit.

Action 7 – Denying, John 13:36–38

Rich Peters

A Meditation: A Story of Denial Told in 3 Parts

The seventh candle is lit.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Jessica

Sweet Jesus, help us to remember that this night is our calling to be broken, scattered and sent to the ends of the earth to love as you loved us. Help us to remember that even when we face our darkest hour ourselves you never leave us. Help us to remember that on this night your kingdom was broken open as you washed your disciples' feet and shared supper together. May our remembering keep us as we walk with you to the cross of Good Friday and as we rise with you come Easter morning. Amen.

Sending Hymn: *God Be With You Till We Meet Again, verses 1&2*

Blessing

**Liturgy adapted from Iona Community, written by Stephen Maunder*

An Upper Room Did Our Lord 202

Prepare



1 An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he
2 A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his
3 And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,
4 No end there is! We de - part in peace. He loves be -



loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still
bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may
too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be
yond our ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our



gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.
bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.
made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.
Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
 F C Dm F7/C B \flat

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
 C F C F Gm


ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 F/A B \flat F/C C7 F B \flat F


not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's



coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -



fold you:
vide you:
round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
fore you: