

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Holy Thursday

March 24, 2016

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

7:00 PM

PRELUDE “O Sacred Head” F. Mendelssohn/P. Manz

WELCOME / CENTERING

CHORAL INTROIT “Go To Dark Gethsemane”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Return to the Lord, God of all mercies, for a feast of love has been prepared for God's own.

Congregation: We will bless the Lord at all times. God's praise shall be continually in our mouth.

Leader: O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Congregation: Happy are they who take refuge in God.

Leader: O magnify the Lord with us, and let us exalt God's name together.

All: Let us now prepare to worship the Lord our God.

***HYMN** “Ah, Holy Jesus” #289 UMH

OPENING PRAYER

CONFESSION AND PARDON

My sisters and brothers, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

Most merciful God, we your Church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray; and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 12:1 –14 OT #66

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 11:23 –26 NT #216

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:1 –17, 31b –35 NT #135

SERMON “Our Words and Our Actions”

*HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” UMH #286

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

Please audibly name those for whom you are interceding.

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Friedgen-Veitch

ANTHEM “Calvary” John Carter

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” C. Tambling

DOXOLOGY #95 UMH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, you pour out blessings upon us and cover us with grace. Accept these offerings that they may bring blessings to those who need them and give witness to your overwhelming love, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*HYMN

“Were You There” (verses 1,2,3) #288 UMH

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE IV

#26 UMH

All are welcome to receive the gifts of bread and grape juice from Christ’s table. You are invited to come to the front of the church to receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. If you are unable to come forward, someone will come to serve you in your seat.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

We are a people loved by God. We will live as signs of this love. We are a people blessed with hope. We will live in light of this hope. May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God’s love with all. Amen.

MUSIC FOR STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR “Choral Dorien” J. Alain

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

During the next few moments you will establish the foundation for celebrating Easter. As you sit, allow your senses to absorb the ending of the service, as our volunteers remove all the Paraments from the altar, the candles and flowers. The cross will be covered with a black cloth. When the altar is bare everything gets quiet. **(death)**

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever. Amen.

*Pastor Carlotta and Pastor Friedgen-Veitch, followed by the choir and then the congregation, will begin the recession from the Sanctuary without saying a word. Please leave quietly, or kneel at the altar for prayer and then leave. **Please do not talk in the Sanctuary.** Allow the Holy Spirit to close this service for you.*

WELCOME TO ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Vision is to be the church that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through our ministry, creative services, discipleship, and outreach.

“Our Mission is to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and share God’s love with others.”

If you are visiting with us for the first time we thank you for worshipping with us and pray that this was a spiritually uplifting experience that will make a difference in the week to come.

Assisting: Rev. Scott Friedgen-Veitch, Haws Avenue UM Church

Liturgist: Kermit Fitzgerald

Scripture Reader: Michelle Leddy

Communion Server: Anne Taylor

Acolytes: Deb Kontra & Charles Adjekpiyede

Ushers: Ginny Williamson & Charlotte Schulz

A Special Thank You to all those who took part in the Stripping of the Alter.

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