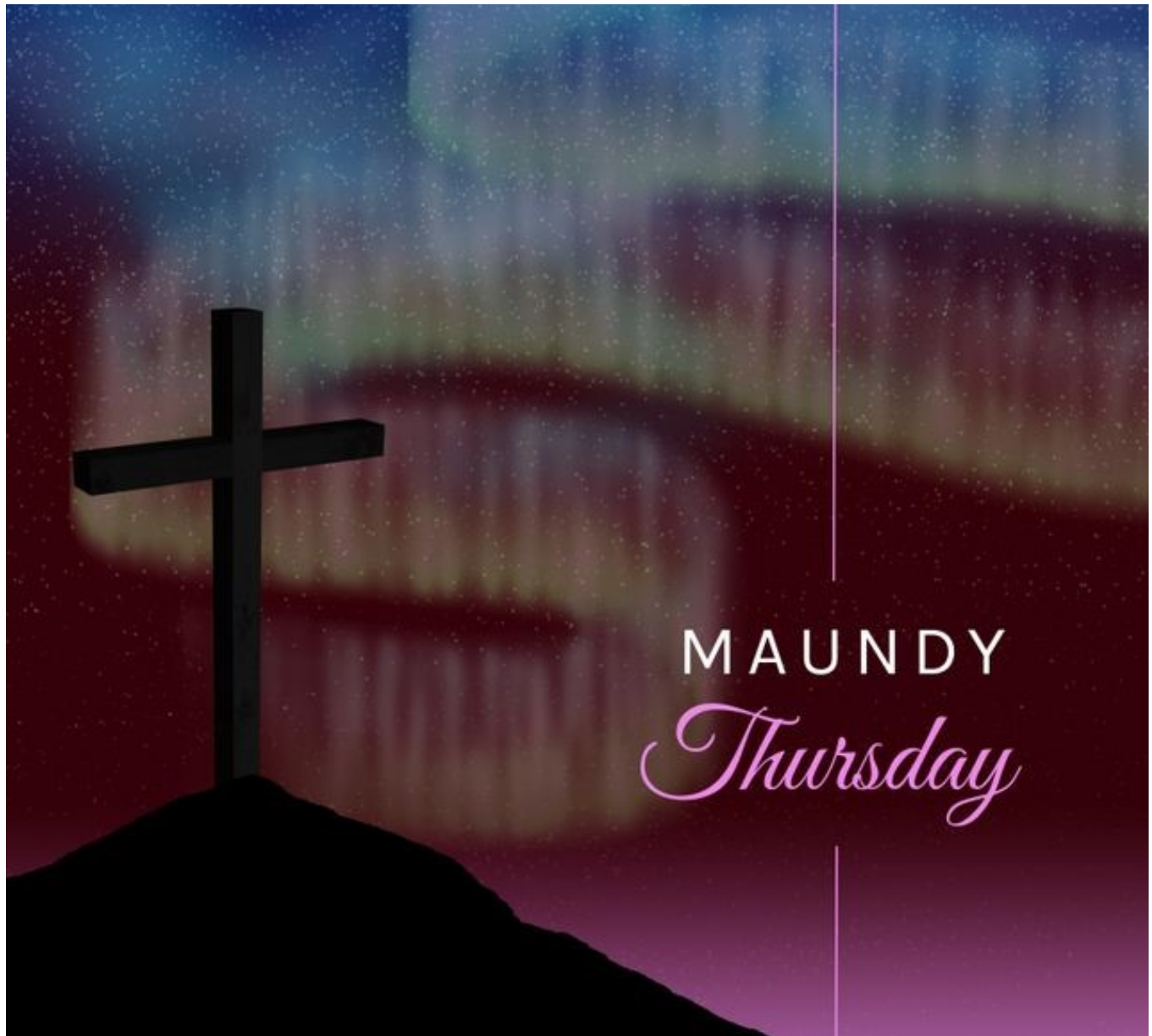




Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 17, 2025
6:30 p.m.



*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.*

John 13:34

WELCOME

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a long-time member, we are blessed to have you with us.

As a congregation, we seek to live as people united in Jesus Christ. Our church consists of people of all ages and stages on faith's journey, from those new to faith to those who have honed their faith for decades. We consider this one of Unity's greatest gifts. We see ourselves as an ever-widening family with room for everyone.

We tend to worship in some pretty traditional ways. We study the scriptures and seek to understand the teachings and actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world.

We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning - a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper connection with the God who loves you!

After the service, stick around for a few minutes. Introduce yourself to one of the pastors. If you cannot stay or are worshipping with us online, please visit our website. See if this is a place and a people that God is calling you to be a part of, a place and a people where you might invest yourself in the amazing work God is doing, a place and a people you just might call home.

GOD GATHERS US

Prelude

Le Banquet Céleste

Messiaen

Call to Worship

ONE: We gather for worship tonight, and we are surprised to find Jesus kneeling on the floor,

MANY: "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

ONE: Jesus says, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

MANY: "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

ONE: Tonight Jesus gives us a new commandment, to love one another.

MANY: Let us worship God, as we seek to embody the love that Jesus Christ has given us.

Opening Prayer

Welcome

* Hymn No. 202

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

O WALY WALY

Scripture Reading

Psalms 71:1-14

Prayer of Confession

MANY: Loving God, you pour out your grace upon us exactly as we are, but we confess we are suspicious and react from fear of scarcity. You invite us to take our shoes off and receive the care our bodies need, but we sit on our heels. We reject and punish bodies that we don't approve of, even when these bodies are our very own. You invite us to love as you love, yet we reserve our love for only those we deem worthy. God, through your Son Jesus Christ, remind us that we are made in your image. Help us to receive the love and care you offer us, so that we might also provide that same love and care to those around us. As we seek to follow faithfully, guide us to love as you love as we strive to wash the feet of our neighbors.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

ONE: Just as he does as he washes his disciples' feet; Jesus transforms our confusion and rejection into joy and connection. With God's help and mercy, know that you are loved, and you are forgiven.

MANY: Through Jesus Christ our lives are transformed. Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Ubi caritas
Chancel Choir

Johnson

TRANSLATION: *Where there is charity and love, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. And from a sincere heart let us love one another.*

GOD MEETS US IN AN UPPER ROOM

Scripture Reading

John 13:1-17, 31-35

Homily

A New Commandment

Rev. Molly Spangler

Special Music

Be Still, My Soul
Jim Boyd and Ken Tysinger

arr. Norton Hall Band

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: they best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears.
Then shalt thou better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fear.
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

ONE: The Lord be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

MANY: We lift them to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

MANY: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ONE: On this holy night, gathered around your table,

MANY: we remember how you have fed us.

ONE: In Eden's garden, you gave us everything good to eat but we wanted the
one thing we could not have.

MANY: God's people ate, and it was the first sin.

ONE: In the desert, you led us towards a promised land, but we grumbled that we
were hungry. So you gave us manna and quail and water from a rock.

MANY: God's people ate, and our strength was renewed.

ONE: In the kingdom, we became powerful and greedy, cheating our neighbors
and starving the poor, so your prophets set us right again, set out food
without cost.

**Leading Worship
this evening:**

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich
Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler
Associate Pastor

Margaret Monroe
Director of Music

Deacons:

Lyn Evans
Chris Routh

Unity Presbyterian
Church

303 Tom Hall Street
Fort Mill, SC 29715
803-547-5543

www.UnityFortMill.org

Facebook:
[@UnityFortMill](https://www.facebook.com/UnityFortMill)

YouTube:
[Unity Presbyterian
Church Fort Mill](https://www.youtube.com/UnityPresbyterianChurchFortMill)

MANY: God's people ate, and relearned how to share.

ONE: In a stable in Bethlehem, a mother nursed her child and placed him in a feeding trough. He would eat with sinners, and be called the bread of life.

MANY: God ate with us. God shared our life.

ONE: On a hillside in Galilee, a hungry crowd gathered, fed by Christ's words, and by a child's gift; five loaves and two fish became a feast for thousands.

MANY: God's people ate, and believed the good news.

ONE: In an upper room in Jerusalem, thirteen friends shared the Passover, one would betray Jesus, one who would deny him, all would fall away from him, and he looked on them with love, those sinful, beloved people of God. He promised them forgiveness, sealed in his own blood.

MANY: God's people ate, and their sin was lifted from them.

ONE: Holy Spirit, as you dwell in us, dwell in this meal. Help us to experience in bread and juice your forgiveness and love.

MANY: As God's people eat, transform our hearts.

ONE: In all he said and did, Jesus taught us to pray and to praise God, to ask for bread, heal rifts, and be free from evil. Every bite we eat at this table is an answer to our prayers. God's people pray still:

MANY: 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

We celebrate by serving one another in the pews today. As the plates are passed, please take a piece of bread or a cup of juice. Then hold the bread or juice until all have been served and we will partake together.

Gluten free wafers are found by the steps at the back of the sanctuary.

Prayer after Communion

* Hymn No. 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

Scripture Reading

John 13:36-38

Stripping of the Sanctuary

Depart in Silence.

The Service continues at 12:00 noon on Friday, April 18th, 2025.

* As you are able in body or spirit, please stand.

Copyright information:

The prayer of confession was adapted from *Liturgy by Adrian White* | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org
Communion Liturgy was adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett, www.deepwellworship.com

Hymns for Maundy Thursday Service

Hymn No. 202

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

O WALY WALY

An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he loved until the end:
And his disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet, for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace. He loves beyond our uttermost:
In every room in our Father's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Hymn No. 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

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!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

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