

April 17, 2025

Maundy Thursday

7:30pm Worship



everything
[in] between

power & humility



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

WELCOME!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time
or have grown up here at FPC,
we are glad you have joined us for worship this evening.

Our worship this evening is an adaptation of an early fourth century service in which there is a solemn observance of Holy Communion. Upon entering, worshippers are encouraged to meditate on the fact that it was on Maundy Thursday that the twelve disciples were with Jesus in the Upper Room for the last time, and that he and they stood in the shadow of the cross. The service begins and ends with silence.

As Jesus and his followers gathered in the Upper Room for their Last Supper together, so we gather around the Lord's Table as he directed us to do in remembrance of him. You will be invited to come forward by an usher to receive communion by intinction at the appropriate time.

In the concluding portion of the service, the intimacy of the meal will be interrupted as we hear of Jesus' arrest and the disciples' abandonment of him. Scripture lessons will be accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of candles and lights to symbolize the flight of the disciples, the approach of Jesus' enemies and the Passion of Jesus. The Christ candle burning alone represents Christ's total desertion.

The musical response to the Scriptures interprets the devotional significance of the Passion, from the hour of fellowship in the Upper Room to the hour of loneliness in the Garden. The tradition of silence should be observed at the end by all worshipers. There is only a silent recognition of friends.

** indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Chorale 'Have Mercy On Me, O God' BWV 721 J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship

One: We have come to worship the Trinity,

**All: One God, three persons,
beyond our understanding
yet constantly revealing themselves to us.**

One: We have come to worship an infinite being

All: who took on finite flesh: fully human and fully divine—

One: a being who is love itself,

All: yet loathes injustice;

One: who is almighty,

**All: yet let go of power
to be in solidarity with outcasts and criminals.**

One: We gather to worship the living God

All: who died.

***Hymn No. 206**

This Is the Night

MY NEIGHBOR



1. This is the night, dear friends, the night for weep - ing, when powers of
2. This night the trai - tor, wolf with - in the sheep-fold, be - trays him -
3. This night Christ in - sti - tutes his ho - ly sup - per, blest food and
4. This night the Lord by slaves shall be ar - rest - ed, he who des -
5. O make us shar - ers, Sav - ior, of your Pas - sion, that we may



dark - ness o - ver - come the day, the night the faith - ful mourn the weight of
self in - to his vic - tim's will, the Lamb of God for sac - ri - fice pre -
drink for heart and soul and mind; this night in - jus - tice joins its hand to
troys our slav - er - y to sin; ac - cused of crime, to crim - i - nals be
share your glo - ry that shall be; let us pass through these three dark nights of



e - vil where - by our sins the Son of Man be - tray.
par - ing: sin brings a - bout the cure for sin's own ill.
trea - son's, and buys the ran - som - price of hu - man - kind.
giv - en, that judg - ment on the right - eous Judge be - gin.
sor - row to Eas - ter's laugh - ter and its lib - er - ty.

*Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, when we failed to serve as Jesus served, forgive us.
When we have not loved one another as Jesus loves us, forgive us.
When we have proclaimed our devotion to Jesus with words, then
denied him with our actions, forgive us. Amen.**

*Declaration of Pardon

First Gospel Lesson Luke 22:7-20 (N.T. p. 86)

One: The Gospel of the Lord

All: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*Hymn No. 202

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

O WALY WALY



1. An Up - per Room did our Lord pre - pare for those he loved un - til the ___
2. A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his bread, his lov - ing ___
3. And af - ter Sup - per he washed their feet for ser - vice, too, is sac - ra -
4. No end there is! We de - part in peace, he loves beyond the ut - ter - most:



end: and his dis - ci - ples still gath - er ___ there to ce - le - brate their Ris - en Friend.
cup. What - ev - er ___ bur - dens may bow us ___ down, he by his Cross shall lift us ___ up.
ment. In him our ___ joy shall be made com - plete sent out to serve, as he was sent.
in ev - ery room ___ in our Fa - ther's house he will be there as Lord and Host.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.

Great Thanksgiving Prayer

One: ... We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying:

All: 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 and Communion of the People

The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.

Communion Music (all sing during communion)



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has the lyrics: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and ne-ver be hun-gry." The second staff has the lyrics: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst." The music consists of simple, rhythmic patterns with dotted and solid notes.

Prayer after Communion

All: As Jesus nourishes us with his very body, we become the Body of Christ. May this feast fuel us for the work of joining others in their in-betweens. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also use the QR code or donate online at <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/>.



Offertory

Stay With Us

Walter L. Pelz

Sarah Dworjan, *flute*

Stay with us, till night has come, our praise to You, this day be sung.
Bless our bread, open our eyes. Jesus, be our great surprise.

Walk with us, our spirits sigh, hear when our weary spirits cry,
feel again our loss, our pain, Jesus, take us to your side.

Walk with us, the road will bend. Make all our weeping, wailing end.
Wipe our tears, forgive our fears, Jesus, lift the heavy cross.

Talk with us, till we behold a joyful life you will unfold.
Heal our eyes to see the prize, Jesus, take us to the light.

Stay with us, till day is done, no tears nor dark shall dim the sun.
Cheer the heart, Your grace impart, Jesus, bring eternal life.

Reading from the Passion Narrative

Choral Response

Giovanni Palestrina

Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Concluding Prayer

Depart in Silence (*depart when the lights are turned back on*)

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Parts of the liturgy by Avery Arden | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
Concluding prayer adapted from prayer by Pastor Katy Stenta

All are Welcome in this Place!

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



First Presbyterian Church

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

Our Sunday services are held at 10:30am with education classes for all ages from 9:15 to 10:15pm. We welcome children to our worship services. On Sundays from 8:45am to 12:15pm nursery care by experienced childcare staff is provided for children ages birth through kindergarten on the second floor of the Christian Education Building.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

Serving you this evening:

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Owen Gilbo, Betsy Hadden, Sue Haney & Roseline Takor

Online Worship Assistant: Maureen Del Giacco

Audio Visual Support: John Myers

Join us for



Good Friday Service

April 18, 7:30pm

in the sanctuary &
livestreamed on YouTube

Together, we will journey
through Jesus' final moments
through music, scripture & prayer.

Easter, April 20

**Sunrise FOCUS Service
at 6:30am**

Swan Street Stairs, west side
of Capital Park. A 30-minute
outdoor worship service;
please bring a lawn chair for
your comfort.



9:15am Easter Breakfast in Assembly Hall hosted by the FPC Youth Group
--Celebrate with family and friends before worship. Enjoy a delicious spread of
warm breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, and a chocolate fountain! Your freewill
donation supports FPC Youth Service Projects!

Worship Service at 10:30am: in the sanctuary & livestreamed on YouTube

Fellowship Time: Following the service in Assembly Hall – enjoy conversation
& refreshments



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*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director • Steven Minchin, Office Administrator*