April 2, 2026
Maundy Thursday
7:30pm Worship

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 on Song 13 (Gibbons)* Percy Whitlock

Welcome and Call to Worship

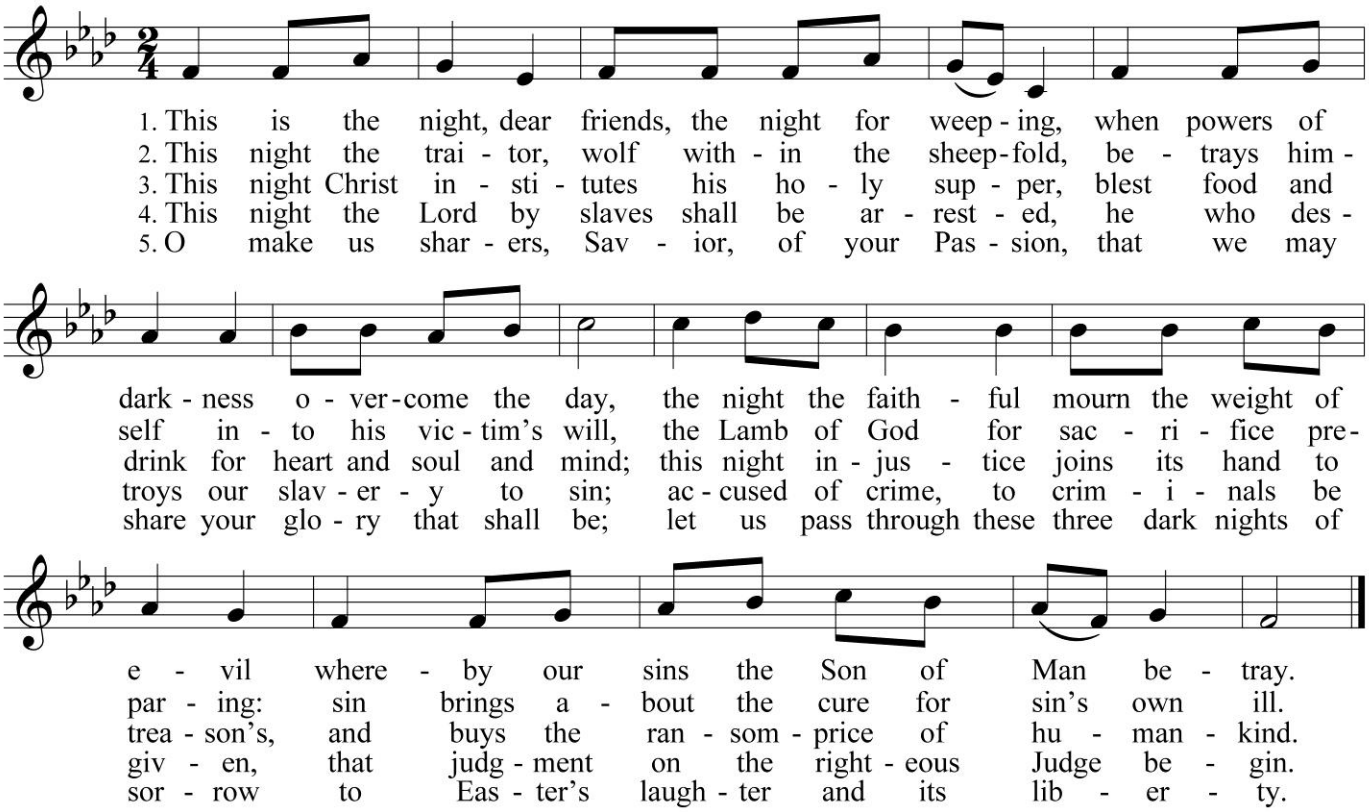
One: On this night long ago, Jesus of Nazareth ate his last supper.
All: He shared this intimate meal with his closest followers.
One: He had taught them for years by this point,
and they started to understand his message.
All: God is love. The last are first in God's eyes.
Resist injustice. Welcome all.
One: Jesus held great power, yet he let go of his power.

All: Even though we have a sense of foreboding on this night,
we gather for a Passover meal.

One: Are we worthy of taking a seat at this table?
To sit beside this host? On this night?

All: We sit not because we are worthy, but because our Lord is worthy.

***Hymn No. 206** *This Is the Night* MY NEIGHBOR



***Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us, O God, for not understanding sooner why he changed this meal from a time to remember the Passover, into a meal to remember him. Forgive us for not doing more to help him avoid arrest on this night. Forgive us for abandoning him in his moment of greatest need. Forgive us for the ways in which we kiss his cheek in moments of betrayal and disobedience to his calling to love the least among us. Forgive us, we pray. Amen

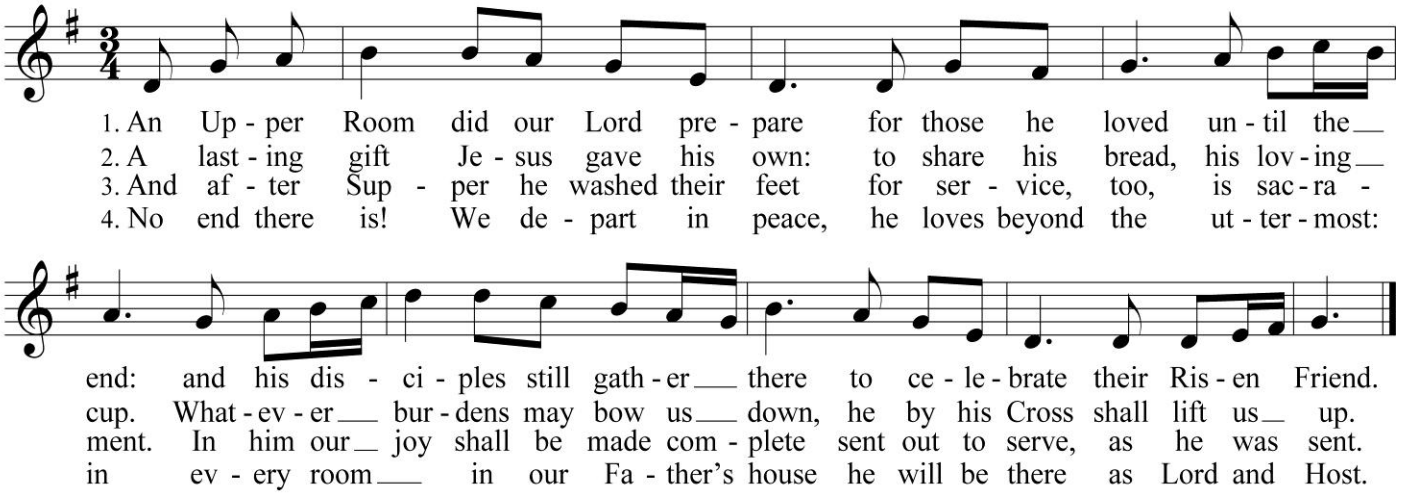
***Declaration of Pardon**

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



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: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

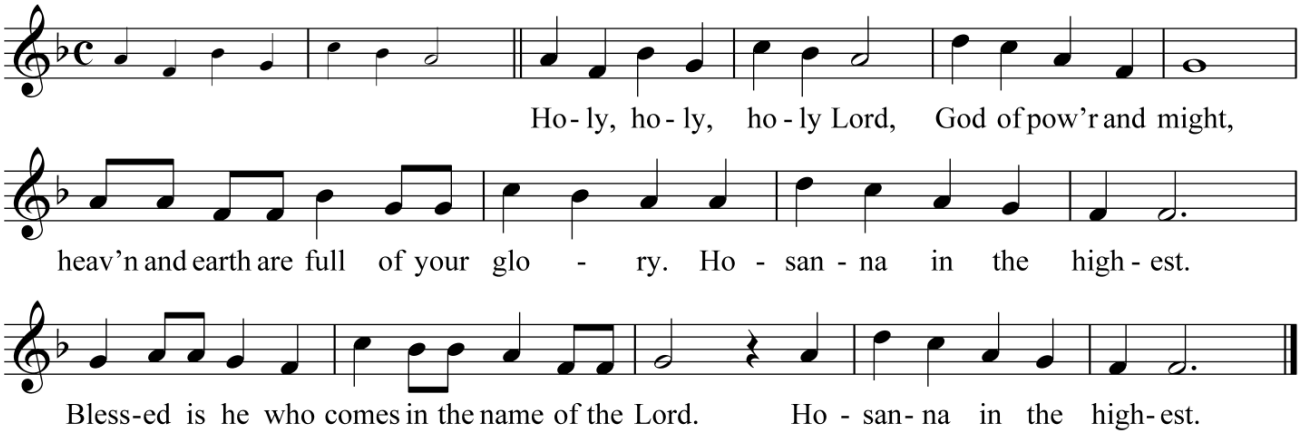
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

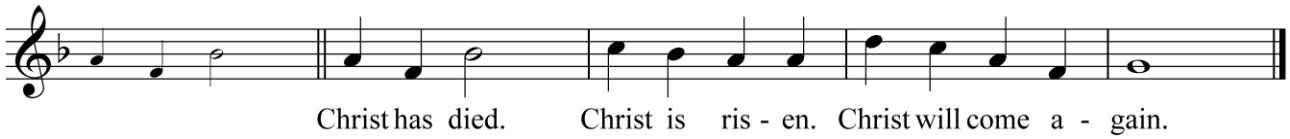
(*prayer continues with sung responses)*

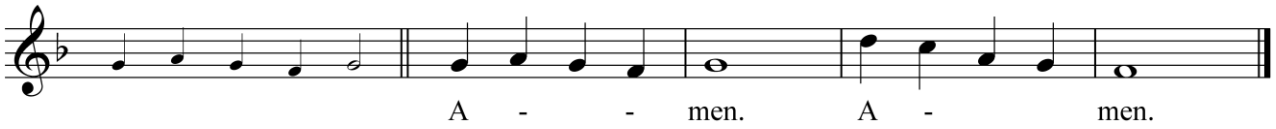
One: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All Sing:



One: …in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

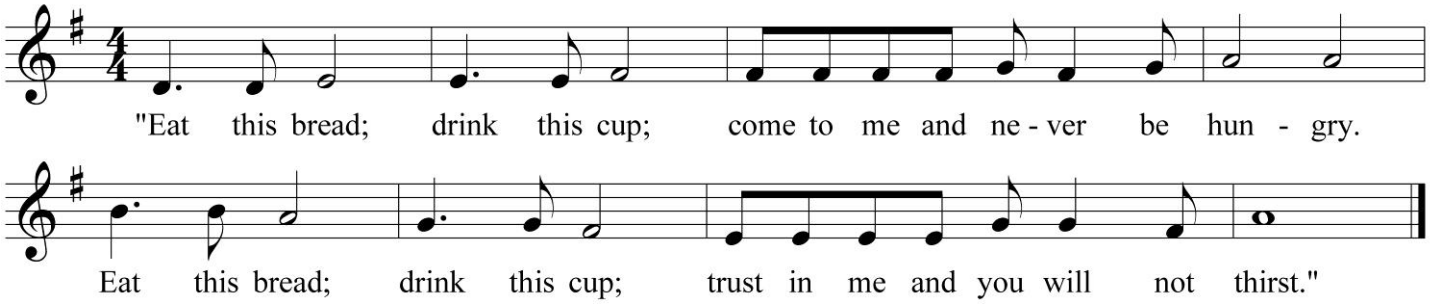
All Sing:

One: …All glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All Sing:

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)

Prayer after Communion

God of all, even though we are slow to live by the high ideals that Jesus showed us, you have welcomed us and fed us at your table. May this act of solidarity with our Lord be a sign of our resolve to live a life of gratitude for your great love for us. Amen

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. You may place your offering in one of offering boxes on back table 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* Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us.
Stay with us, it soon is evening.
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us,
it soon is evening, and night is falling.
Jesus Christ, the world's true light,
shine so the darkness cannot overcome it.
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening.
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling.
Let your light pierce the darkness
and fill your church with its glory.

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

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: Betsy Hadden & Kathie Keck
Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely
Communion Servers: Owen Gilbo & Roseline Takor
Audio Visual Support: Hank Prussing

Join us for

Good Friday Service

April 3 at 7:30pm

in the sanctuary & livestreamed on YouTube

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

Easter, April 5

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.

9:15 Easter Breakfast in Assembly Hall hosted by the Hospitality Deacon Team.
Celebrate with family and friends before worship. Enjoy a delicious spread of warm breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, and pastries.

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

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

First Presbyterian Church of Albany

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Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Denise Relf, Youth Director