

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday • April 2, 2026

WE GATHER



I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.
-John 13:34-35

PRELUDE

Janet Searfoss, piano

WELCOME AND GREETING

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Christ has prepared a feast of love.

HYMN #408 United Methodist Hymnal – The Gift of Love

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

Children of God, Christ shows us God's 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!
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Tricia Guerrero

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 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
John 13:3-20, 31-35

Tricia Guerrero
Rev. Olsen Paget

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION "All Are Washed, All Are Loved"

Tricia Guerrero

HYMN #560 UMH – Help Us Accept Each Other

FOOT WASHING

Rev. Olsen Paget

The washing of our feet or hands is a symbolic act of sharing in Christ's servanthood and the command to love one another. Those desiring to participate should come forward to the washing stations as they feel ready. You may choose to have your hands or your feet washed and dried with the towels provided. Once your hands or feet have been washed you will wash the hands or feet of the next participant. As you wash, feel the warm touch of Jesus flowing through you, preparing you for your own journey through the difficult days ahead.

#2222 The Faith We Sing—The Servant Song

#2223 TFWS—They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

#2226 TFWS— Bind Us Together

#2179 TFWS— Live in Charity

PRAYER AFTER FOOT WASHING

Tricia Guerrero

Almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ you taught us to wash one another's feet and to live his love for us with one another. Strengthen and expand our bonds of love and fellowship, that together we may walk the way of the cross that brings eternal life. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Rev. Olsen Paget

Vera Lugo, vocalist; Janet Searfoss, piano

You may follow along with the communion liturgy on pages 15-16 of the United Methodist Hymnal. Please come forward to receive the communion elements as you feel led. You will be invited to take a piece of gluten-free bread, dip into the cup, and receive. Kneelers are available for prayer should you desire.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tricia Guerrero

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #432 UMH – Jesu, Jesu

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Tricia Guerrero

† Go in peace,

† Go in hope.

In the Christian tradition, Maundy Thursday is the day to imitate Christ as servant, when he shared his last supper with his close friends, the disciples, and then confused them by washing their feet and showing them how to serve one another. We cannot truly serve each other without trust, intimacy, and vulnerability. We also cannot be Christians or people of faith only on our terms. What inhibits us from serving and being served? Pride, fear, mistrust, insecurity. These are powerful instruments that tear at God's love. During Holy Week we are called out of our comfort zone to recognize that Christ modeled the life of sacrifice and service for us to follow.

HOLY WEEK CONTINUES

Friday, APRIL 3: Good Friday

- **Prayer Vigil 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.** First UMC Chapel. Open to pray.
- **Good Friday Labyrinth Walk 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall**
The Labyrinth will be open for walking, every step a prayer.
 - Join Ross Chitwood of Community UMC for a special musical performance of Taizé music during Labyrinth hours, from **6 - 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall**
- **Good Friday Ecumenical Service 7 p.m. at First UMC**
Join Rev. Greg Batson, the First UMC Choir, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church for an ecumenical Good Friday service in the First UMC Sanctuary.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

APRIL 5: Easter Sunrise Service

- **6:30 a.m. Palisades Park** (Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)
Family-friendly worship, Holy Communion, hot coffee & fellowship.
Bring blankets, chairs, & fresh flowers for the cross.
- **10 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship** Sanctuary, Livestream
Family Service, Choir, Organ, Brass Quintet, Easter Flowers, and Alleluias!



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