

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
An Order of Worship for Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:30 pm**

A Thought Before Worship

We gather here to see the light of God's Word amid the darkness of our lives.

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Martin

***Call to Worship**

This is a night of remembrance for us.

We gather here to lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Throughout long generations, we have received and then handed on to others what the Lord has given us:

The bread of his body, the cup of the new covenant, proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes. Let us worship God!

***Prayer for the Day**

God of Love, we give you thanks for this night to remember the time Jesus spent around the Table with his friends. We long to follow his example: to serve as he served, to love as he loved. Jesus promised that if we know these things and do them, we will be blessed. Help us to know and to do all that Jesus taught. Though we continue to fall short, we still come seeking your blessing, for we know this one thing: we cannot live unless you bless us. Amen.

A Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the Lord because he has heard the voice of my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

A Call to Confession

Even among Jesus closest friends, not all were clean. Tonight, God invites us to confess the ways we fall short and disappoint, deny, even betray Jesus, our Lord and Teacher. We offer our confession in the sure knowledge that Jesus is both able and willing to wash us in forgiveness and love. Let us confess our sin together:

A Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us to serve one another as Christ has served us. We confess that we have not followed Christ's example as often or as fully as we should. We turn away from people in need. True humility eludes us, and we hide our own vulnerability from others. You have commanded us to love others as you have loved us. We confess that we do not love nearly so generously. Gathered on this night, we confess that we are just as capable of denying and betraying you and one another as people in Jesus' day were. Forgive us, merciful God, and cleanse us of all our sin. Then guide our feet to walk with you always. In Christ's holy name we pray.

Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Friends, disciples of Jesus, having loved his own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end. Jesus knows us fully and offers us love and forgiveness unconditionally. In gratitude for the grace given to us and as a witness to our faith in Christ, let us strive to love one another. In Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Now may the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

A Piano Interlude

"What Wondrous Love is This?"

Rouse

Jennifer Sanders, piano

We Hear God's Word

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

A Reading from the Epistles: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sermon

As Often...

the Rev. Bob Phelps

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that bread comes from grain that grows in the wind and the sun and the rain as God provides. We believe that bread comes from love: the love of God, the love of those who tend and grow it, the love of a baker's hand, and the love of those who bring it to us. We believe that bread is meant to be broken and shared, given to all until everyone has enough. We believe that Jesus took bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciples. We believe enough in the power of this bread to want to receive it from Jesus again and again, to want it to feed and nurture us. We want to be bread for others, and we believe that the Spirit will help us. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

Invitation to God's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is always right and our greatest joy to give God thanks and praise...

....who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest....

....that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. According to Christ's commandment:

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory....

....As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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 and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of God's People

A Prayer after Communion

God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption which we have shared this night in the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus. As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We Go In God's Name

*Benediction

May God, who led us out of slavery into freedom; may Jesus Christ, who led us out of death into life; and may the Holy Spirit, who leads us out of fear into boldness, abide with you this night, in the holy days to come, and forevermore.

*Charge

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord!

***Postlude "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Medema**

Easter Flower Information

Since we will likely still not be welcoming full participation in worship by Easter this year, we will not be doing memorial and honorary lilies this year. We will have some lilies in the sanctuary that day, but not as many as we're accustomed to. In place of that celebration, we invite you to make contributions to the development of the former Brumfield and Schroeder properties next door. Our goal has been to celebrate occasions like Easter Sunrise worship there, and someday we will. If you would like to contribute to the development of that greenspace, please use the form below.

Please accept the attached donation toward development of greenspace

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Remainder of Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Good Friday, April 2, 6:30 pm A Service of Solemn Remembrance

Easter Worship:

**Sunrise at 6:45 am on the lawn next door. (No breakfast this year)
10:30 Easter Worship in the Sanctuary.**

All services except sunrise will be broadcast on Facebook Live.

