

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 18, 2025 | 7:00 PM

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

**Indicates to stand if you are able*

GATHERING MUSIC

“Kyrie” from “Mozart’s Requiem”

**God Gathers Us:
God So Loved The World**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

John 13:1

*** A READING FROM PSALM 116**

Beth & Steve Seymour

Leader: I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

*** SONG RESPONSE**

Congregation: I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan. Long as I live and troubles rise, I’ll hasten to God’s throne.

The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
Then I called on the name of the Lord: “Lord, save me!”

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me.

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I’ll hasten to God’s throne.**

You, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.



MAUNDY THURSDAY
THE SIGN OF SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

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Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.**

What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.
I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.**

GREETING

John 14:27

**We Respond:
But People Loved Darkness**

CALL TO CONFESSION

John 13:2, 21–27, 30

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Like Judas, we have felt the influence of evil on our lives. We have opened ourselves to Satan's manipulations. We have been instruments of betrayal for our Lord. O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

*** HYMN**

“O Lamb of God Most Holy!”

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer.
And patient still and lowly, yourself for scorn did offer.
Our sins by You were taken, or hope had us forsaken.
Have mercy on us Jesus!

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer.
And patient still and lowly, yourself for scorn did offer.
Our sins by You were taken, or hope had us forsaken.
Have mercy on us Jesus!

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer.
And patient still and lowly, yourself for scorn did offer.
Our sins by You were taken, or hope had us forsaken.
Your peace be with us Jesus!

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

John 17:1–3

God Speaks to Us

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Like the disciples reclining at the table in the upper room, we too have been fed. Now, in the growing darkness, our Lord gets up from the table. He has things to teach us before his final suffering. Give us, O God, ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to receive. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:3–17

MESSAGE

“The Sign of Service”

We Respond

INVITATION TO FOOT WASHING

Like Peter, we too may be tempted to pull away from this uncomfortable space and declare:
“No, you shall never wash my feet.”

But Jesus reminds us,

“Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

Let us therefore approach the basin in humility,
receiving from each other the cleansing waters as from the Lord.

SPECIAL MUSIC “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” Chancel Choir

FOOT WASHING

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, may these waters be to us reminders of the waters of baptism, through which you've claimed us as your covenant people, and also of your cleansing blood, which washed away our sin. Refresh our hearts and minds in the truth of your self-sacrificial love, symbolized for us here in the basin, towel, and water. Amen.

RESPONSE

You are clean!

Thanks be to God!

Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

We have been given a new command: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

And so we show we are our Lord's disciples, if we love one another.

—adapted from John 13:10, 12–15, 34–35

**God Meets Us at the Table:
Not to Condemn, But to Save**

INVITATION “Come All Ye Pining, Hungry, Poor”

DECLARATION OF GOD'S INVITATION AND PROMISES

Jesus, to whom the Father granted authority over all people, came among us and used that authority on our behalf to ensure our eternal salvation. Now, along with his disciples, we hear that first invitation to the table of grace:

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*** HYMN**

“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”

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 the uttermost.
In every room in our Father's house,
Christ will be there as Lord and Host.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:26–29

THE COMMUNION

God Sends Us Out to Serve

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died.
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet.
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet? Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine that were a present far too small.
Love, so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, demands my soul, my life my all.

SENDING

People of God, hear this charge: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. This is my command: Love each other.

—John 15:12–13, 17

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Man of Sorrows”

* DEPART IN SILENCE

* * * * *



Holy Week

Friday, April 18 at 7:00 PM (ET)

GOOD FRIDAY

A reflective service based on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

Saturday, April 19 at 8:06 PM (Sunset)

EASTER VIGIL

Meet us on the front steps of the church at sunset as we bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary for worship.

Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 AM (ET)

EASTER SUNDAY

Spend Easter Morning with us. Our sanctuary will be adorned with beautiful flowers as we celebrate the Risen Lord.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

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