



NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Maundy Thursday | 04 . 01 . 2021 | 7:00pm

All Are Welcome!

*You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, or condition of ableness, **we greet each other as beloved children of God!***

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Sophy

Call to Worship:

Pastor Mel and Pastor Sophy

We are Jesus' disciples,
following him even as he moves toward the cross.

Even as he wraps a towel around his waist.

Even as he kneels to wash the filth from the feet of his friends.

We are Jesus' disciples,
longing to be faithful even as the night grows dark.

Even as betrayers loom.

Even as the powers that oppose the way of Christ press in around us.

We are Jesus' disciples,
struggling to love others even as Jesus loved us.

We are Jesus' disciples,

gathered here to worship God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

Amen.

Call to Prayer:

Remember me – words that plead for our attention. Remember me. Think about me. Care about me. Don't forget me. Let me know that my life has meaning. God also says remember me. Remember The Passover when God spared the faithful huddled behind bloodstained doors. Remember that God hears our every cry and pities every groan. Remember that Jesus led by serving others, even if it meant washing dirty feet. Remember that on the night that he was betrayed Jesus gave thanks, broke bread, and said, "Eat, this is my body, do this in remembrance of me." And he poured a cup, a new covenant paid for with his blood. He said drink it in remembrance of me. We come today to remember. Remember what God has done, what God is doing and what God promised to do. Tonight, we set aside sacred time to remember God too and ask God to remember us.

Quiet Prayer Time

Prayer Song: Jesus, Remember Me UMH #488

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kin-dom.

Prayer of Confession:

God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus—Savior and Lord—who at his last meal with his disciples gave them—and us—that new commandment: "...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."

Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak.

When we have failed to serve as Jesus served; **forgive us.**

When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us; **forgive us.**

When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions; **forgive us.**

Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world"
 and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end"
 The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**Gospel Reading: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet****John 13:1-17, 31-35 (NRSV)**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, **4** got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. **5** Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." **8** Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." **9** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" **10** Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." **11** For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? **13** You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. **14** So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. **16** Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. **17** If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. **32** If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. **33** Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' **34** I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God!

Listening for God's Message: *"A Meditation on Washed Feet"*

Pastor Mel

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**A Ritual at Home: Washing Each Other's Hands and Feet****Pastor Sophy**

Though we are separated by social distance and unable to touch one another, we know that there are still many ways to show our love and care for each other's bodies, hearts, and minds. In your Holy Week Devotional Kit, you will find a small washcloth which has been hand-knit or crocheted by members of our church community.

Take your washcloth (or any cloth you have on hand). Dampen it in water if you'd like, or simply go through the motions of washing your hands or feet with this cloth. Consider the stitches of the washcloth. Consider the time taken to show love in creative ways. Consider how you are being called to give and receive love in creative ways during this time.

Prayer during the washing:

Merciful Savior,
 We have traveled this long, dusty Lenten journey.
 Our feet are tired, dirty, aching, and calloused.
 You have shown us Your love
 by becoming a humble servant.
 Humble us when we try to travel without You.
 As Christ has washed us,
 so let us wash one another.
 Humble us when we believe some work is below us.

As Christ has washed us,
 so let us wash one another.
 Humble us when we are too proud
 to accept help, or care, or love.

As Christ has washed us,
 so let us wash one another.
 Humble us when we do not fully receive
 the gift of Your amazing and bountiful grace.

As Christ has washed us,
 so let us wash one another. Amen.

WE ARE SENT**Closing Commission****Pastor Sophy**

Christ has given us a new commandment:
 that we love one another, as Christ has loved us.
 By this, everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples,
 if we share that love with the world.
 And through this love, all things will be made new.
 Go now, and do as Christ commands. **Amen.**

Benediction**Pastor Mel**

Bulletin Cover Photograph: Palms Laid Out on the Altar. Photo shared by Pastor Sophy Gamber

Note: Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship online possible, and to our congregants whose continued efforts help to keep our community safe from COVID19. We lift up deep gratitude for the collaboration involved in making this worship service happen for the glory of God and the delight of Creation!

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