

ourselves to you and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom. May our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

The Passion of Jesus Christ

John 18:1-19:42

Stripping of the Altar

The Pastor will invite congregation members to come forward to strip the altar.

Hymn 287 "O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done" SELENA

Dismissal with Blessing

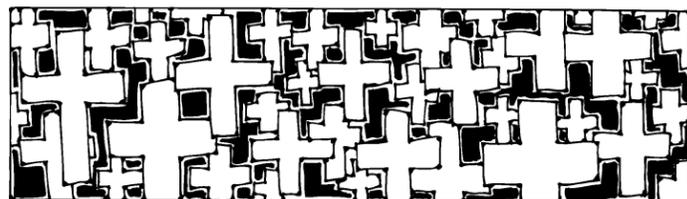
May Jesus Christ,

who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and for ever. **Amen.**

Going Forth

Remain to pray as long as you wish.

Depart in silence.



Maundy
Thursday

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the great Easter celebration. The word "Maundy" is said to be derived from the Latin word mandatum, the first word of the Latin phrase, "Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you"), the statement used by Jesus in John's gospel to explain the significance of washing the disciples' feet. Maundy Thursday is also the night that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with the words, "Do this in remembrance of me." As a way to remember that night, all the worship articles and adornments are removed from the altar. This symbolizes both the suspension of Holy Communion, which is not celebrated on Good Friday, and the abandonment and humiliation of Jesus Christ.

*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 Lord Jesus Christ.*

We especially welcome every visitor today.

We are very glad you came.

Part of our mission is to be a place for all people.

All are welcome here!

*Whatever your gender, age, race, religious background,
economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness,
we greet you as a beloved child of God.*

NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Every Member a Disciple"

Holy Week at the New Milford United Methodist Church

Good Friday Community Service on the Green in New Milford begins on the steps of the Congregational Church at noon.

Easter Sunday Worship Services will be at **6:45 am in Chapel in the Pines** and **9:30 am & 11:30 am in the Sanctuary.**

Bring your Easter baskets! All children are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt between services starting at 10:45 am on Easter Sunday.

*Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2015 at 7:00 pm*



The Service of Worship

New Milford United Methodist Church

68 Danbury Road

New Milford, Connecticut 06776

860-354-4596

<http://www.newmilfordumc.org>

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Prelude

The Congregation may rise.

Hymn 286 "Jesu, Jesu" PASSION CHORALE

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Tonight we continue our journey to the cross,

remembering where our table manners came from.

Tonight we tell the stories that make us God's people.

Tonight we are a people about to be freed from slavery.

Tonight we are a people who come with dirty feet

and become clean by water and the word.

Hymn 616 "Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast" HURSLEY

Confession and Pardon

Let us declare our need of forgiveness and cleansing.

Jesus, our feet are dirty from the journey. We have not loved one another as you have loved us. Callousness and violence stain our hearts and lives. How will we become clean again? We see the table there, but who will make us clean and ready for the meal? Where will we find water for these soiled soles? Restore us to the joy of God's salvation. Amen.

The lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. Believe the good news. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

Anthem "Remember Me" PETHEL
Chancel Choir

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From the earth you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You fed us manna in the wilderness, and gave grapes as evidence of the promised land. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When we turned aside from your way and abused your gifts, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Emptying himself, that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet, and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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 the Bread and Giving the Cup

Everyone, regardless of church membership, is invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion. If you wish you may kneel at the altar rail for prayer before returning to your seat.

Communion Hymn 618 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Prayer After Receiving

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for our service. We give