



St. Paul United Church of Christ Trinity United Church of Christ Concordia United Church of Christ All Saints Ecumenical Catholic Church "No matter who you are, No matter where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here."

# St. Paul United Church of Christ

## April 17, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm Ecumenical Maundy Thursday

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS	
Senior Pastor, St. Paul UCC	Rev. Michelle Torigian
Lead Pastor, Trinity UCC	Rev. Tim Powers-Reed
Priest, All Saints Ecumenical Catholic Church	Father Mike Inyart
Lay Leader, Trinity UCC	Eileen Hoag
Director of Music, St. Paul UCC	Dr. Tristan Frampton
Organist	Cynthia Johnson

**WELCOME** Rev. Michelle Torigian

PRELUDE

Lamb of God by Twila Paris Setting by Lloyd Larson

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Through our individual vocations and callings, Holy Creator,

All: May we serve this world.

One: Through our treasures, talents, and time

All: May we serve this community.
One: Through our love, hope, and faith,

All: May we serve this church.

## **INVOCATION (UNISON)**

Spirit of God who hovered over the waters at creation, and blesses the bread and cup at communion, refresh us in this time and space. Help us to focus on you in this holiest of weeks. May these meditations move us to serve our neighbor, sharing in the Great Commandment – love one another as we have been loved. Encircle us here tonight, as we continue to grow with our kin and with you, ushering in the realm of heaven on earth. Amen.

\*OPENING SONG

One Bread, One Body

(See pages 4-5)

### PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION AND REFLECTION (UNISON)

You call us to live your life, follow where you have trod, be your presence in these streets, show compassion to the poor, support the vulnerable, embrace the outcast, bring lives into your Kingdom. Yet our hearts are troubled as we are fearful of the task, forgetting your promise that you are with us wherever we go. Forgive our timidity, grant us peace for the journey, and strength for the day, that we might demonstrate our love in the life we live and share. Amen.

Moment of Silent Prayer

#### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Through the grace of God, we are accepted as we are. May we embrace this grace and share with all we meet. Amen.

**CONTEMPORARY READING** written by Rev. Tim Powers-Reed

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 116:1-2 & 12-19

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-17 & 31b-35

MESSAGE Rev. Tim Powers-Reed

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love arr. Hal Hopson St. Paul UCC Sanctuary Choir

#### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 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. Amen.

**REFLECTION ON GIVING** This offering will go to the Interfaith Food Pantry Please place in the offering box as you leave the Sanctuary.

On this evening when we remember the meal, the holy space set for Jesus and his friends, and the lessons of our Christ, we reflect on our gifts. With gratitude, we share. In the spirit of our Christ, we contribute to the mission of our church. Delighting in Jesus' love, we deliver our gifts, embracing our piece in the Body of Christ.

### \***DOXOLOGY** (Tune: *Old Hundredth*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ in whom God's grace we know; Praise Spirit, with us evermore; One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

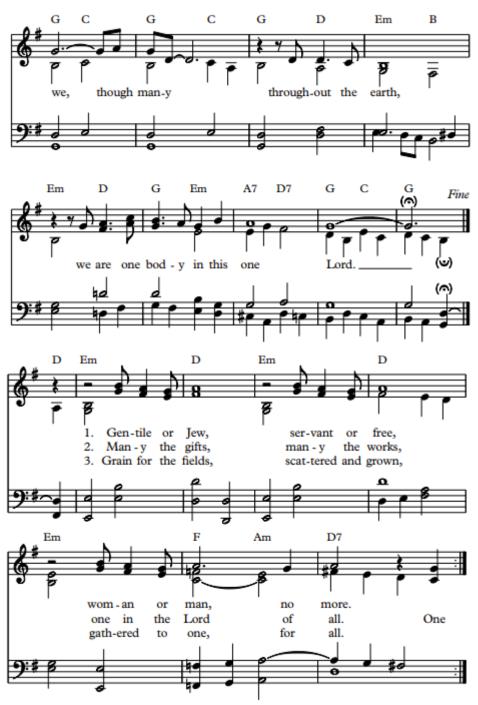
## \*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS (UNISON)

God of our treasures, our gifts, and the longings of our hearts, we celebrate gratitude on this holy night. As the sun sets on the eve before Jesus' death, we remember the sacredness of his gifts – from his teachings to his radical love and vulnerability. In the spirit of the Christ, we too aim for more ways to follow the path of Jesus. Amen.

#### HAND WASHING AND BLESSING RITUAL

This is a blessing of the hands. In our world today, our hands are used to care for us and others, prepare food, extend a greeting, and work—whether laboring in the fields, manufacturing items, or administration. Our work provides for others and ourselves, extending the love of Christ in our world.



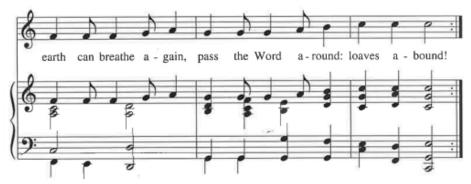


WORDS: John B. Foley, S.J., 1978 (1 Cor. 10:16-17; Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 12) MUSIC: John B. Foley, S.J., 1978; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988 ONE BREAD, ONE BODY 44.6 with Refrain

## 698 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



WORDS: Fred Kaan (1929-) MUSIC: Januaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter (1925-1980) LINSTEAD L.M.Ref.



Please place your hand over the basin as water is poured over your hands. The cloth you are given to dry your hands is a gift to you to take home. You may use this cloth as a towel for others to dry their hands in your home. In John 13:14, we are reminded that as we are washed, we are to extend this to others. The towel represents the extension of love to be passed from Christ to us and then to our neighbors.

## **Blessing of the Hands**

At this time, those who are willing to have their hands symbolically washed and anointed please come forward. Please let an usher know if you need assistance.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ubi Caritas et Amour 8th Century Antiphon Setting by Maurice Durufle

#### SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation

One: Christ gave us the mandate to love one another.

Many: Christ gave us the peace that we will never be left alone.

One: Christ gave us the picture that we are connected as vine and branches. Many: Christ gave us the assurance that no one will take away our joy.

One: God is with you!

Many: God is with us all!

One: Open wide our hearts.

Many: We open them to new possibilities.

One: From this communion table to tables across our world, Many: This is the time to give God our thanks and praise.

## **Communion Prayer**

#### **Distribution of the Elements**

Ushers will release the pews to come forward. Gluten free communion will be in the basket on the table. If you would like white grape juice or wine please take a cup. Bread will be served in your cupped hand, then select grape juice (white juice) in outer ring, wine (red) in inner two rings. Consume the elements and place cup in tray before returning to the pew. If you need service in the pew please raise your hand.

COMMUNION MUSIC: Panis Angelicus ("Bread of angels") by César Franck, Tristan Frampton, soloist

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (UNISON)** 

Holy One, at this table we saw your love, your laughter, your light. We are renewed in body and in spirit. May our renewal lead us to share love and kindness with our world. Amen.

**CLOSING SONG** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (see pages 6 & 7)

#### COMMISSIONING

#### BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen!

**POSTLUDE** 

Herzliebster Jesu (Ah, Holy Jesus) Setting by Gordon Young



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