

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday – April 17, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.



The Washing of Feet by Sieger Köder

.....
*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR

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GATHERING

PRELUDE

"What Wondrous Love is This?"

arr. Martin Gaspard

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Doreen Collins

This is the night of love and service.

Christ has shown us the fullness of God's love.

He knelt to wash feet, and shared bread and wine.

He took the lowest place, and welcomed us to the table.

Come, not to be honored, but to be transformed.

We come to follow the way of Christ—the way of humility, mercy, and love.

*OPENING HYMN No. 616

"Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have shown us what love looks like: stooping low, taking the form of a servant, offering yourself in bread and cup, in towel and basin. Yet we confess how often we seek the places of honor: wanting to be known, admired, or in control. We forget that your kingdom is not built by ambition but received in humility and shared at a common table. We draw lines where you have drawn none and overlook those you have welcomed. Forgive us, O Lord. Reshape our hearts, that we might learn again the grace of belonging, the joy of serving, and the wonder of being fed by your grace-filled hands. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

MUSIC

"Be Still, My Child"

Lee Dengler

There is a voice, a still, small voice,
that calls to you from wind and fire,
that speaks amid the noise of life,

and says, "Be still, my child, and know I am God."

Though nations rage, though mountains fall,
this tender voice can still be heard. My child, trust in me.

It sounds above the hate and fear,
and says, "Be still."

Be still, and know my love for you.
God is our strength from day to day.

God is our help amid despair.
It is God's voice that says, "Be still."

Small Ensemble

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

This is the Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

HOMILY

The Rev. George Ragsdale

THE FOOTWASHING

MUSIC

"Elegy in C Minor"

James Michael Stevens

Doug Moody, alto saxophone

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

After each petition we enter into the prayer together with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem

"I Will Remember You"

Lloyd Larson

Bread of bitter suffering and wine of sacrifice.
Symbols of a brutal death that brought eternal life.
Lord, I cannot comprehend Your vast, unselfish love.
Willing to give everything so I could dwell above.
At Your sacred table You invite each one to dine;
eating of Your broken bread and drinking of Your wine.
You shared the bread and cup and said, "Remember me."
We now share this meal as one in Your memory.
Coming with confession, so unworthy of this meal.
You see deep inside my heart; no sin can I conceal.
Humbly, in contrition; hear my prayer, my lament.
Please forgive me, Lord, I now repent.
I will not forget the sacrifice You paid for me,
taking all my sin upon Yourself to set me free.

With a grateful heart I will remember how you died,
as I eat the bread and drink the wine of sacrifice.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*ACT OF PRAISE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
***Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.***

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 15-16)

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

*BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Music

"Meditative Etude, No. 1 in E Minor"
Doug Moody, alto saxophone

James Michael Stevens

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

arr. Lloyd Larson

I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
When I'm troubled, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Catherine Ragsdale, J. Michael Beech, duet

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this meal, shared among friends in the
strength of your Spirit. We give you thanks for Jesus, who has given
himself to us. May his presence be the delight and pleasure of our souls,
our strength and salvation in all temptations, our joy and peace in every
trial, and our light and guide through the darkness of these holy days. Amen.***

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR AND DRAPING OF THE CROSS

GOING FORTH

Once the worship leaders have departed, you may continue in prayer or depart in silence.

**Those who are able please stand.*

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad that you've chosen to worship with us this evening. We invite you to explore all the opportunities we have for children, youth and adults of all ages and stages of life. We seek to be a community of faith that welcomes all as we grow to be more like Jesus Christ for our community, loving and serving God and one another in all that we do.

What Happened To The Benediction? The services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday do not "end" as most services do with a blessing or benediction. Instead, we are asked to depart on our own, in silence. Usually, it feels like something is missing, that somehow the service is not really complete. And, in fact, it isn't. The mysteries we celebrate on these days are incomplete without also telling the Easter Gospel. The early church observed these services as one continuous worship service. As uncomfortable as it may be, leaving off the blessing helps us remember that the story does not end tonight: Easter is coming!

Tonight's Bulletin Cover features *The Washing of Feet* by German priest and artist Sieger Köder (1925–2015), a powerful depiction of Christ's humility on the night of his betrayal. Jesus kneels before Peter, washing his feet—a posture of service and love that redefines what true authority looks like. In the water, we glimpse the reflection of Jesus' face, reminding us that divine love is not revealed in power, but in kneeling, in serving, in washing. As we remember the Last Supper, this image invites us to receive Christ's love and embody it in how we serve one another.

Tonight's Offering will be donated to *Rice and Beans*, a non-profit organization that is passionate about helping under-served communities. *Rice N Beans* provides, at two different locations, a hot meal, clothing, and personal care items to our unhoused neighbors in Gastonia.



Holy Week Schedule



April 18 - Community Cross Walk 12:00 noon at

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

April 18 - Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.

April 20 - Community Easter Sunrise Service at Greenwood Cemetery

April 20 - Easter Sunday Service of Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



OUR STAFF

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