**Worship from Home**

**First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC**

**April 17, 2025**

**Maundy Thursday**

Welcome! We are glad to have you worshiping with us today.

An asterisk (\*) indicates where you are asked to stand if you are able.

**GREETING AND WELCOME** Pastor Lisa

 **\*OPENING HYMN**  “J*esu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”* #498

# **CALL TO WORSHIP** **Pastor Lisa**

**Leader:** This is a night for remembering.

**People:** **We remember Jesus Christ, who called his disciples together;**

**Leader:** We remember the meal, which bound them together.

**People:** **We remember Jesus Christ, who was betrayed;**

**Leader:** We remember that he was crucified, but that he will be raised from the dead.

**People:** **This is a night for remembering.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

**O God, even now, we feel the darkness gather as we tell the stories of the Last Supper and your time in the Garden of Gethsemane. A sense of loneliness and foreboding hangs in the air. We want to believe we would not have abandoned you in your time of need had we been with you, but in our hearts, we know our behavior would not have differed from that of the disciples. We know this because we still turn away from you when it is expedient. We put other things before our commitment to you and fail to heed your command to serve others. Forgive us for not being more faithful. Forgive us when we are reluctant to share the Good News of the gospel, worried more about offending someone than offering them hope. In this time before Easter, help us to reflect and remember what your persecution and death mean to us. May we be prepared to greet Easter with a sense of awe and a renewed commitment to a new life in you. Amen.**

**THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Lisa:** He prayed for God to forgive those who killed him. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Your sins are forgiven.
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*SECOND HYMN**  “*Let Us Break Bread Together”* #330

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

*(Communion will be shared by intinction. You will pass the plate of bread around the table, and dip them in your own cup. Our cups contain alcohol-free grape juice, and the crackers on your plate are gluten free.)*

**INVITATION**

**WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE AND INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We thank you, Lord for giving us this sacred meal, for giving us your presence and your life, and for reminding us of your everlasting grace, which will be celebrated for all eternity. Amen.**

**THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE**

The Shadow of Betrayal *Matthew 26:20-25*

The Shadow of Desertion *Matthew 26: 31-35*

The Agony of the Soul *Luke 22: 39-44*

The Unshared Vigil *Mark 14: 32-41*

Father, The Hour Has Come *John 17: 1-6*

That They May be One *John 17: 15-22*

The Arrest at The Gate *John 18: 1-5*

*The Christ Candle will be re-lit, and then when the lights are again raised, please remain seated while Pastor Lisa drapes the cross. The congregation may then leave the Sanctuary in silence.*

**The Service of Tenebrae**

The TENEBRAE (from the Latin for “darkness” or “shadows”) is a service which evokes the gathering sorrow of the events leading up to Jesus’ death. The readings provide an opportunity for us to meditate on Christ’s commandments to observe the last supper in remembrance of Him, and to “love one another; even as I have loved you.” (John 13:34) Perhaps we have obeyed, or perhaps we have fled, as did the disciples...