

# CALVARY

United Methodist Church



## Wandering Heart



*"Streams of mercy"*

**MAR**

**28<sup>TH</sup>**

**2024**

*You* are God's beloved. *You* are welcome here.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP †

Leader: From busy weekday lives we pause this hour, gathered as friends, to remember Jesus' last earthly night with his disciples.

People: **May we listen for God's invitations to personal discipleship and service.**

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

**HYMN OF PRAISE †** . . . . . "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" — #286 UMH

## OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, remind us on this special day of the many ways we know you: as strong deliverer, as humble servant, as the One who bids us love one another, that the world might know you. Lead us not only to the beauty of solitary reflection but also to community, as we remember together your words and your example. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** . . . . . Psalm 116:12-19 NRSV

**HYMN** . . . . . "Ah, Holy Jesus" — #289 UMH

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, even now we do not know how far we have turned away from you. Bring us back. Send your Spirit like a strong wind into our lives; disturb our complacency, expose our faults, drive out our pride and selfishness. Help us put right the things we have done wrong. Make us willing to forgive those who have wronged or hurt us. Clear away our grudges and bitterness. Demolish the walls we have built between us. Freshen our lives with your presence. Help us to live in love and peace with all people. We pray in the name of the one who kept loving us, even in death. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**HYMN OF PREPARATION.** . . . . . "One Bread, One Body" — #620 UMH

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: God of the lost and the found, surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise; for day after day we look for you, and day after day we find you: in the laughter of children, in the sun rising over the horizon, in the flowers of spring.

People: **Our seeking does not go unanswered, and for that we are grateful.**

Leader: The night may have been much like tonight; the people, much like us, too.

Matthew tells it like this: On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

God of all time and all creation, we thank you for your work in our world, for good food and good friends, for the time to share a bountiful meal and the space to worship you. All that we have and all that we are comes from you.

Most of all, this night we thank you for Jesus Christ, for the faithful and righteous life that he lived, for the journey he made during this week that we celebrate from exalted king to crucified lord, and for the meal that he shared with his disciples before he was killed, where he revealed and shared his full self with those who cared for him.

Be present with us now, by the power of your Spirit, that once again this meal might be a chance for us to share in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May this bread be for us the body of Christ, this cup be the blood of our Lord, and the sharing of this feast our participation in that meal of so long ago.

Strengthen us by this meal for the journey ahead, that we might continue to walk with Christ along the road of his passion and death as we await his rising on Easter and to the fullness of new life. Through Christ, who shares this table with us even now, we pray together, the prayer taught by our Lord.

**People: 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.**

Leader: Among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples, promising that as they ate they would share in his life and death and resurrection. As we share it now, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always.

And he also shared a cup of wine, offering them a taste of the new covenant of life sealed in his life. As we share it now, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always.

So come on this holy night. Share this holy meal. Remember our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep the feast now and always.

*(You will be invited to the altar under the direction of the ushers. Please kneel as you are able. The bread is gluten free so that all may freely participate. All are welcome at the table of our Lord. As you rise to leave, please take with you a palm cross graciously made by Bailey Burns-Elliott.)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: God of manna and mustard seeds, we came to this Table hungry and we leave feeling full—full of hope, full of promise, full of what could be.

People: **For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table, but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be: in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed.**

Leader: Is there anything holier than that? So thank you for nourishing our curiosity alongside our spirit and our conviction.

People: **May we always seek you the way you seek after us. With grateful hearts we pray, amen.**

**ANTHEM**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** . . . . . John 13:1-17, 31b-35 NRSV  
John 14:15-21 NRSV

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** . . . . . John 16:16-22 NRSV  
John 17:1-5 NRSV

**HYMN** † . . . . . "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" — #301 UMH

**BENEDICTION** †

**POSTLUDE** †

† Please stand as you are able | Bold text is unison