

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

**March 28, 2023**

**Holy Thursday**

**7:00 pm**

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**We gather for worship (music for meditation)**

**Call to worship**

The darkness deepens, and the Lord grows troubled.

Can we watch with Him?

Can we be his friends at the table, sharing the bread and cup?

Can we be the companions who journey with Him to the end?

**Come, let us worship, let us watch,  
and let us give thanks for such great love. Amen.**

**Mark 14:12-16**

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 13 So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15 He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." 16 So the disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

### **Remembering the Passover**

*They were told to "Wear your traveling clothes as you eat this meal, as though prepared for a long journey.*

*Wear your sandals and carry your walking sticks in your hands.*

*Eat the food quickly, for this is the Lord's Passover." Exodus 12:11*

tonight we remember  
the story of Passover  
where home was not  
a place of safety  
where the people lived in fear  
and were not free

**tonight we remember  
the story of Passover  
where home was not  
a place of safety  
where at any moment  
you might have to get up and flee**

tonight we remember  
the story of Passover  
where home was not

a place of safety  
quick, grab what you can carry  
and go

**we remember**

**And we pray for those today  
who have to grab what they can and go  
for those fleeing war and violence  
only to arrive at closed borders**

tonight we remember  
the story of Passover  
for those making treacherous journeys  
carrying children and plastic bags

**we remember**

**And we pray for those who are out in the cold  
making their home in tent cities  
where home is not  
a place of safety  
where the people live in fear  
and are not free**

tonight we remember  
the story of Passover  
where home was not  
a place of safety  
where at any moment  
you might have to up and flee

**we remember**

**And we pray for those today  
who have to grab what they can and go.  
For those who flee in fear and grief and confusion.**

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**Song: #65 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”**

**Mark 14:17- 21**

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” 19 They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” 20 He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. 21 For 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.”

**Confession**

**Gracious Lord,  
for Your promise of forgiveness,  
and the invitation to new life  
we give you thanks.  
Forgive us for becoming too familiar with this story  
that we forget your call to follow,  
that we take Your suffering too lightly,  
and receive Your grace too cheaply.  
As we watch with You,  
As the darkness encroaches,  
Let us remember what this journey means,  
and count again the cost of love. Amen.**

**Mark 14:22- 25**

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” 23 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. 24 He said to them, “This is my blood of the [f] covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

## **The Communion**

When the time arrived for Jesus to be lifted up;  
When all had been prepared,  
He shared His last meal with His friends,  
The Lord, took the loaf, blessed it, broke it,  
and gave it to the disciples.  
When you eat the bread, remember Me.  
This is my body broken for you.  
When the meal was finished,  
The Lord took the cup, blessed it,  
and gave it to the disciples.  
When you drink the wine, remember Me.  
This is my blood shed for you.  
Now, as we gather at this table,  
we eat bread;  
we drink wine;  
and we remember the One Who died to bring us life.  
And we will keep sharing this meal until in remembrance  
To be feed for the journey,  
To live into the promise of his kin-dom fulfilled Amen.

*-Communion is shared around the tables- Music*

### ***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.***

**Mark 14: 26-31**

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27  
And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written,  
'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

## **Praise**

Lord Jesus,  
We are stunned at Your passion and Your commitment to us.  
You did not run from the darkness,  
You did not hide from Your accusers,  
You did not fade into safe obscurity.  
You stepped with determination into the darkness,  
Willingly giving Yourself to the foolishness and fear of people,  
To suffer false accusations, whip and fist, wood and nails.  
We praise You, Gracious Lord,  
for what You endure to reconcile us with God.

**We praise You!**

**Song: # 789 "When We Are Tested"**

## **Benediction**

We go out to wait for the dawn of a new day  
As the heaviness of fear and grief grows.  
As the disciples flee and hide,  
May the ancient promise hold true.  
"Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning."  
In just a few days, the dawn will break.  
The light of the world will rise.  
But there is still more to remember and experience  
before we will see new life.  
Hold fast. Trust in the Lord  
**Our story is not over...**