

**Worship Service for Bethany and Bethlehem U.C.C.**  
**April 17, 2025**  
**Maundy Thursday**

*As you prepare your heart for worship it might be helpful to read through the call to worship and the prayer of confession and think about them.*

Prelude and Bell Ringing  
Announcements

Call to Worship (from Psalm 116)

Leader: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**Congregation: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

L: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**C: I suffered distress and anguish.**

L: Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

**C: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

L: I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

**C: I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted";**

L: What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

**C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

**ALL: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.**

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn of Praise #432 (SS) "According to Thy Gracious Word"

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Heavenly Father, forgive us. You give us many opportunities in life which we ignore or miss completely. You give us opportunities to declare your goodness in the presence of others, but we remain quiet. You give us opportunities to serve, but we ignore them. You give us opportunities to help those in need, but we close our hands. You give us reasons to be joyful, but instead we complain. For these sins and many more, Father, forgive us, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Make us more aware of the opportunities that fill our life by your grace, and make us bold enough to seize those opportunities and serve you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Personal confession (silent)  
Assurance of Pardon

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*Hymn #126 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Scripture

Old Testament lesson - Exodus 12:1-14

New Testament lesson - Luke 22:1-6, 14, 39-48

Sermon “An Opportunity”

\*Hymn of Preparation #128 “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering, Offertory

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

\*Hymn of Parting #49 “The Day Thou Gavest” (tune St. Clement)

\*Benediction

TONIGHT – Rev. Darwin Smith

Good Friday services will be at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Bethlehem UCC in Sutter. Tonight’s offering will go to the Hamilton and Warsaw food pantries. WELCOME ALL!

**Bethany United Church of Christ**

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