

Maundy Thursday, 6 p.m.  
First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



1031 S. Euclid Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237 ~ (941) 953-7044  
[www.uccsarasota.com](http://www.uccsarasota.com)

## INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: There are so many narratives in the world that seek to define and confine us.

Many: **Stories we tell ourselves *about* ourselves geographically, genealogically, politically, culturally, racially, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religious beliefs.**

One: These stories spill out of us, shape us, and can separate us.

Many: **Where does God get a word in edgewise? Where does God's gospel medicine sing to our souls?**

One: Tonight, we will tell a story about unconditional love, betrayal, brokenness, denial, and desertion.

Many: **We open our hearts, praying that tonight *will* re-author our life.**

One: Come, people of God, lean in and listen to an expansive, evolving, elastic narrative where there is room for everyone.

Many: **We worship with open hearts, minds, and souls.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*Journey to Gethsemane (vs. 1-3)*

#219

**Journey to Gethsemane, go and feel the tempter's power; Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch the anguish of this hour; Do not hide or turn away; learn from Jesus how to pray.**

**Follow then to Pilate's hall, view the Lord of life arraigned; Crowned with thorns and mocked by all, faithfully this pain sustained; Greater still than shame or loss, Jesus now must face the cross.**

**Calvary's mournful mountain climb, see the Savior lifted high, Mark the miracle of time, God's own Child is sacrificed; "It is finished!" Jesus cries: learn from Jesus how to die.**

## \*OPENING PRAYER

**How did we get *here*, O God? How could Your good news of unconditional and unceasing love, embodied in Jesus, lead to a *cross*? How could humans be *so* cruel, letting our brokenness escape in hatred and violence? The uncomfortable truth is that what we experience tonight did not just happen, it is happening *today*. We hurt and harm Your creation for our own profit. We are paving over paradise right here in Sarasota. We treat Your beloved children as expendable and political pawns. We deny and discriminate, failing to see Your divine imprint on all that is around us. Perhaps, because we fail to see Your image staring back at us in the mirror. God, save us. God, help us. God, hold us in this fragile place. Let the words we sing and speak awaken our sacred imaginations to the truth that You are not absent from suffering, but found in the holy brokenness of this week. In the name of the One, who walked the lonesome valley, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty! As crowds of people come to see And shout hosannas, lifting high their praise for one about to die.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Ride on in humble dignity; Behold the ones you came to save from senseless life and endless grave.**

**SACRED STORY of TONIGHT from THE GOSPEL of ST. MATTHEW**

PREPARING for the LAST SUPPER

HYMN

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

**Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.**

*Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, My God, have mercy on me.*

**Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain**

AT THE TABLE

SILENCE/HYMN

*Abide with Me* (vs. 1-2)

#99

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; The shadows deepen, Lord, with me abide; When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Christ who changes not, abide with me.**

CELEBRATION of COMMUNION

One: At this table on this holy night, we honor the complexity of faith.

Many: **We are dust and the breath of God, we are beloved and befuddled, we are holy and human.**

One: We have moments of goodness and times we go off the grid, guided by our shadow side; we are a mixture of reflecting God's love and being smudged with our own self-righteousness.

Many: **We come with hunger and thirst; we come needing to be called by name; we come with moments when our faith feels strong, and times when our soul feels distant from the Divine.**

One: God meets us with a presence that holds us, hears us, and helps to heal us.

Many: **May the promise of God's presence and peace meet, feed, and form us as we come to Christ's table.**

PASTORAL PRAYER and *SUNG* LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

**debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*You are invited to come forward using the center aisle, take a piece of bread, and dip it in the juice. There is a gluten-free station in the center. There are also bread and grape cups on either side. If you need, We will come and serve you.*

#### AFTER SUPPER

HYMN

*Abide with Me (vs. 3-5)*

#99

**I need your presence every passing hour; I need your grace to foil the tempter's power.  
Give me your love my guide and stay to be. Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with  
me.**

**I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless; Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness; where  
is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory? I triumph still if you abide with me.**

**Hold now your cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom and point me to the  
skies; Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Christ,  
abide with me.**

#### PRAYING IN THE GARDEN

SILENCE/HYMN

*O Lord, Hear my Prayer*

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me. O Lord, hear  
my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

**The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my  
song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.**

*(repeat both verses)*

#### SILENCE/BETRAYAL AND ARREST

#### SILENCE/TRIAL

SOLO

*They Crucified my Lord*

Dr. Marsha Kindall-Smith

#### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Readers: Donna Blakey, Liz Early, Pauline Geary, Carol Hagglund,  
Frank Hallice, Lindsey Huddleston, Matt Jacobs, Susan Moore

Greeters: Gregg Matthews, Richard Dilts

***You are invited to leave in silence, when you are ready.***

**Good Friday service will be held tomorrow at noon in the Sanctuary & online.  
Easter Services with choir, brass, & percussion will take place at 9a.m. in the Sanctuary &  
at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary & online.**