

First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA



MAUNDY THURSDAY  
April 2, 2026



✠ *You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit* ❖

# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering at the Table

*As you enter please take a seat at one of the tables.*

*When you arrive at your seat you will see that you have either a yellow place card with a ○ or a blue place card with a ▼. This symbol will indicate which response reading group you will be part of below. Bolded responses with no symbol should be read by all.*

*You may also take note of the Seder Meal Placemat at your table. Crayons are provided if you would like to color!*

## Prelude

*Meditation on HOLY MANNA  
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Jerry Westenkuehler  
Rhonda Furr

## Words of Welcome

## Opening Hymn 202

*An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

○ WALY WALY

## Table Talk

*Rituals*

What is your favorite meal around the table? What are some rituals/meal time traditions you share around tables with your family, friends?



## At the Table

## At the Table

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and said,

**"Where do you want us to prepare for you the Passover meal?"**

He replied, "Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, 'The teacher says, "My time is near. I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them.

They prepared the Passover.

Let us pray together and give thanks for

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for all which is set out before us.**

**Send your Holy Spirit to fill each of us with thanks and praise. Guide us as**

**we remember that your Anointed One, on the night before he suffered, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood. Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life. Amen.**

Here are the commandments of Jesus

- **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.** *(Matthew 22:37)*
- ▼ **You must love your neighbor as yourself** *(Matthew 22:39)*
- **Do not pay back violence with violence.** *(Mathew 5:39)*
- ▼ **Do not withhold forgiveness.** *(Matthew 6:15)*
- **Do not hate or curse your enemies.** *(Matthew 5:44)*
- ▼ **Do not pray like the hypocrites or make a show of your faith.** *(Matthew 6:1)*
- **Do not ignore the needs of the poor.** *(Mathew 19:21)*
- ▼ **Do not put the letter of the Law over the heart of the Law.** *(Matthew 15:10)*
- **Do not be afraid.** *(Matthew 28:10)*

Jesus said, "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love.

This is my commandment: Love each other."

**This is our commandment. To love each other.**

Jesus said, "No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends...I give you these commandments so that you can love each other."

Before Jesus and his disciples gathered for the meal, there was one who had taken matters into his own hands. For thirty pieces of silver, Judas had agreed to hand Jesus over to the chief priests. From that moment on, Judas was looking for the right time to betray Jesus.

"I assure you, one of you will betray me."

**I'm not the one, am I, Lord?**

"The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl"

**Judas said, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?"**

"You said it."

## **Community Confession**

Let us confess together:

**Merciful God, we confess that we have betrayed you. We have denied you. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **Silent Personal Confession**

### **Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness**

Hear the good news: when Christ gathered with his disciples to remind them of his love, he knew that he gathered with the one who betrayed him, the one who would deny him, and all who would abandon him. This proves that Jesus loved them, even when they failed him, and he loves us still today. Church, we are forgiven! We are free to try again.

### **Hymn of Response 581**

*Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, amen.***

### **Table Talk**

*Forgiveness*

What does forgiveness mean to you? As a table - write or draw a definition of forgiveness. You will then be invited to share with the larger group.



## ***The Sacrament of Communion***

### **Breaking of the Bread**

On the night in which he was betrayed, and while they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

***"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you"***

And when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, shared it with his disciples and said,

***Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.***

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Passing of the Bread and the Cup**

*Each table will have one loaf to share. Your table host will start by handing it to the person next to them and tell them, "this is the body of Christ."*

*Then you are invited to pass the bread. When all have eaten their piece of bread, the remaining bread may be placed back at the center of the table.*

*Your table host will start by taking the pitcher of grape juice, pouring out a cup and handing it to the person next to them. Give it to them and tell them, "This is the cup of forgiveness." After doing so, we invite you to then pass the pitcher until all have received the cup.*

*On the table you will also find food from a traditional seder! Your table host will let you know when you are invited to taste the foods. You are free to eat more once all have been served. Your table host is happy to assist you.*

## **Table Talk**

*Prayer After Communion*

As a table, you are invited to write a prayer following communion. What does Communion mean to you?

## **✦ Hymn of Response 516**

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken* KINGDOM

**Verses 1, 2**

*During this hymn you are invited to leave your table and take a seat in the pews for the remainder of the service.*

## **✦ Scripture Reading**

*John 13:1-12*



## After the Meal

### After the Meal

Then after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, 'I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions.' But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you in Galilee."

Peter replied

**"If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble."**

Jesus said to him, "I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times."

**"Even if I must die alongside you, I won't deny you."**

All the disciples said the same thing.

○ **I won't deny you**

▼ **I won't deny you**

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to his disciples "Stay here while I go pray over there." When he took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, "I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here alert with me."

As Jesus prayed in anguish, none of the disciples could stay awake. A moment before they all pledged their undying loyalty. Now they couldn't stay awake to pray in Jesus' time of need. Finally, it was time.

After finding them asleep again, Jesus said,

"Get up. Let's go. Look, here comes my betrayer."

While Jesus was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. His betrayer had given them a sign.

**"Arrest the man I kiss." Just then he came to Jesus and said, "Hello Rabbi." Then he kissed him.**

Jesus said "Friend, come do what you came to do."

Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest's slave, he cut off his ear.

Then Jesus said to him, "Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I am not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve Legions of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?"

Then Jesus said to the crowds

"Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as if I were a thief? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me."

**Then all of the disciples deserted Jesus, and fled.**

Get up. Let's go. Look, the hour is at hand. It is time to depart from this place. Tomorrow is another day to remember and reflect on all that Jesus did and gave for us. Go now and remember Jesus' last commandment: to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go in peace, transformed by Christ's commands.

**This is our commandment: To love each other.**

**We will go in peace and wait. We will try to stay awake.**

## ✦ Scripture Reading

*Matthew 27:45-51*

## ✦ Response 221

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

## Stripping of the Chancel

## Exit in Silence



## Worship Notes

**Worship Art**—Look at the art on the cover of the worship guide. Consider the archway and what it could symbolize. Do you see a table, a tablet, a boat, a door, a tomb—or all of these things or something else?

Today's worship guide art is a block print with oil-based ink titled "Far More Abundantly" by Lauren Wright Pittman inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21.

**Use**—One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. Everything In Between Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Art "Far More Abundant" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org | Liturgy "Potluck Liturgy" by The Fat Pastor



# Serving Today

**We'd like to thank everyone involved in this service!**

**Thank you for sharing your time and talents by reading liturgy, hosting a table, baking bread and preparing food, serving communion, stripping the chancel, operating our tech and sound equipment, serving as ushers, and more!**

Jonny Atkins, Jo Anna Fish, Dana Hall, Pat Harper, Yvonne Hill-Davenport, Abby Hutchinson, Pam Iannucci, John McCarthy, Cindy Moon, Bob Rose, Debi Selin, Hardy Sideris, Pam Stillerman, Bob Tabb, Darcel Tabb, Luke Usry, Beth Vining, Dan Walden, Carolyn Watson, Curtis Watson, Miriam Wheeler, Chuck Williams



**1169 Clark Street SW Covington, GA 30014**  
**fpccov.org 770.786.7321**

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor &amp; Head of Staff</i>
Alisa Castilla	<i>Interim Dir. of Children &amp; Youth</i>
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>

*Nursery Staff*

Hattie Bellinger
Catrina Crowe
Akeelah Fletcher
Jahniyah Greene
Jordyn Williams
Sylvia Woods

## Emergency Response Team

*In the event of an emergency including tornado, fire, intruder, and medical emergencies, the Emergency Response Team will lead the church's response and may be identified by wearing yellow visibility vests. If these people are not present for an emergency secondary responders will wear ERT vests. Please follow any directions given by the following people in the event of an emergency:*

Primary Point Person—Neeley Rentz Lane  
Facility/Security Response—Kenny Compton, Stan Hall, John McCarthy  
Medical Response—Nichole Howell, Pam Stillerman

## Officers

### Reaching Out

Sara Chini	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Yvonne Hill-Davenport	<i>Witness (2028)</i>
Stephanie Scarborough	<i>Witness (2027)</i>
Bob Tabb	<i>Thriving Congregations (2028)</i>

### Engaging

Krista Firkus	<i>Faith Formation (2027)</i>
Hardy Fortson Sideris	<i>Worship (2027)</i>
Chuck Williams	<i>Faith Formation (2028)</i>
Angie Woodham	<i>Worship (2028)</i>

### Belonging

Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Bethany Wells	<i>Welcome (2028)</i>

### Connecting (Deacons)

Cathy Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Denny Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Beverly Kratz	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2028)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2027)</i>

### More

Jodi Atkins	<i>Preschool (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
Jo Anna Fish	<i>Personnel (2027)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>

# An Upper Room Did Our Lord 202

## Prepare



1 An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he  
 2 A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his  
 3 And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,  
 4 No end there is! We de - part in peace. He loves be -



loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still  
 bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may  
 too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be  
 yond our ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our



gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.  
 bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.  
 made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.  
 Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

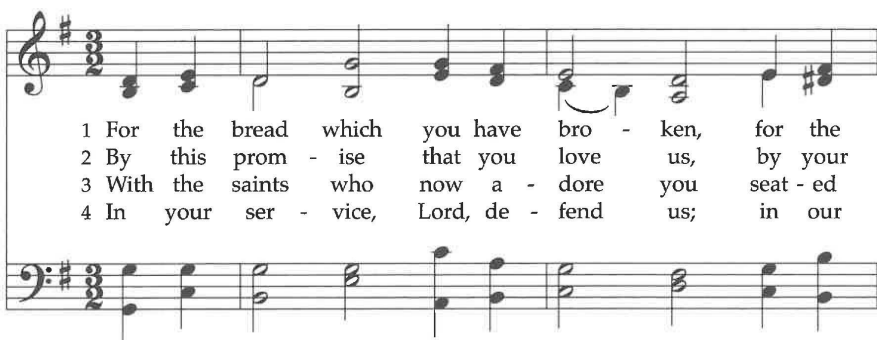
*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text brings together the two New Testament traditions regarding Jesus' final evening with his disciples: the Synoptic account of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-29/Mark 14:22-25/Luke 22:14-20) and the Fourth Gospel's report of his washing the disciples' feet (John 13:3-17).

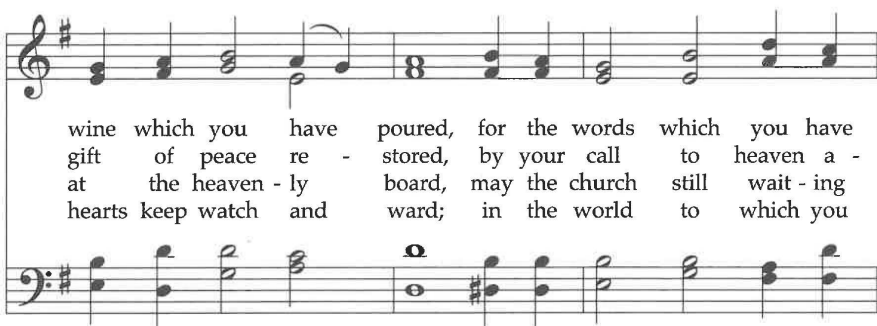
TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1973, alt.  
 MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. John Weaver, 1988  
 Text © 1974 Hope Publishing Company  
 Music Harm. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

© WALY WALY  
 9.8.9.8

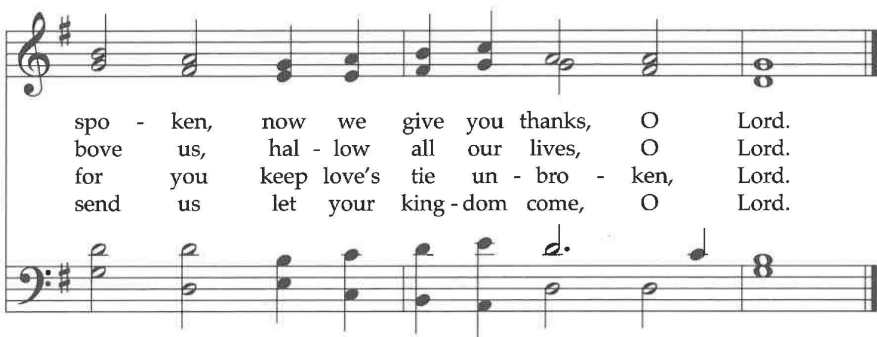
## 516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the  
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your  
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you seat - ed  
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have  
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -  
 at the heaven - ly board, may the church still wait - ing  
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

The author of this text, the editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language in this text echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.

# 203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Refrain Capo 3: (D) (A7)  
F C7

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

(D) (D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D)  
F F/A Gm7 C7 F Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

(D) (Bm) (Em) (A)  
F Dm Gm C

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,	si - lent - ly wash - es their
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor,	var - ied in col - or and
3 These are the ones we should serve;	these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees,	will - ing to wash oth - ers'

(D) (Bm) (Em7) (A7) (D)  
F Dm Gm7 C7 F to Refrain

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.  
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.  
 feet; this is the way we should live like you.

Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221

1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighd down;  
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;  
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.