

Quispamsis United Church

In an Upper Room

Lent: The Stones we Carry

April 1, 2021 – Maundy Thursday

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Music Director & Hymn Leader: Stephen Alexander

Soloist: Wendy Stewart

Reader: Sally Allanach/Wendy Stewart

Prelude Pie Jesu - Gabriel Faure

Invitation to the Table

Gathering Hymn: Bread of Life MV 194

1 Bread of life, feed my soul,
As the presence of the Spirit
makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
With the grace and mercy you impart.

*I have heard your voice calling,
"Come, my friend, and share
In the feast that is laid out for you
To show how much I care."*

2 Bread of life, help me live
A life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see
The boundless love
of Christ for you and me. R

3 Bread of life, feed my soul,
As the presence of the Spirit
makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
With the grace and mercy you impart. R

Lighting of Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Responsive):

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Scripture: Luke 22:1-5

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money.

Scripture: 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?' 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, 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?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So, the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

Twelve candles are lit at the head table, with the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of the Twelve

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive):

We thank you, God, Creator of us all; from the beginning you made the world and all its creatures. You made people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

You created Adam and Eve and gave them a garden; you showed Noah a rainbow; you gave Moses strength to free your people and taught Miriam to sing; you gave courage to Peter and loyalty to Mary Magdalene; you give us a voice to sing your praise, and light in our times of darkness.

We praise you, O God.

Yet, even the world turned away from you and forgot about you, as we often do too. But you did not forget. You sent Jesus to the world to show how much you love us and to bring us back to you again.

We praise you, O God.

He came as one of us, first an infant, then a child, later a youth, then an adult. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced, and wept with those who wept. To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope. To the sick, he gave healing. To the hurting, he was a friend.

We Praise you, O God.

Still, people turned away from you. They betrayed Jesus and nailed him to a cross. But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life, that he might be with us and we with him, alive for evermore! Therefore, with all the saints of every time and place, we join the angels in their praise:

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy MV 203

**O holy, holy, holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

Scripture: John 13:1-9

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!'

Those present are invited to share in the washing of their hands as we prepare to eat.

Grace:

Eat This Bread

VU 466

**Eat this bread, drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.**

Scripture: John 13:18-30

I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, “The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.” I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.’

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, ‘Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.’ The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So, while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus answered, ‘It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.’ So, when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, ‘Do quickly what you are going to do.’ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, ‘Buy what we need for the festival’; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

One of the Twelve is extinguished, marking Judas’ exit.

Remembering the Meal (Responsive):

Let us remember together that vision of God’s reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

he shared food with followers and friends,

with saints and sinners,

with crowds of thousands on the hillside,

and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, a night much like tonight, he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks to you, O God, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

“Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of

Blessing (Responsive):

As we have shared this bread,

let us be strengthened for the road ahead.

As we have shared this cup,

may we be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Let us walk together with the light of Christ,

into the darkness of tomorrow.

Closing Music:

Gethsemane

Wendy Stewart