



## Love One Another

April 6, 2023 7:00 p.m.

### Maunder Thursday – Tenebrae Service

*Welcome. “Tenebrae” means “shadows.” Tonight, we extinguish candles as we recall the events leading up to Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion. Through communion, we remember that Jesus calls us to love one another. In the encroaching darkness, we experience the disciples’ distress at the prospect of a world without God. Please enter humbly, worship deeply, and leave quietly this evening. The sanctuary will remain open until 9 pm for any who choose to sit in silent prayer.*



#### **A Word for Meditation:**

The Uses of Sorrow

*(In my sleep I dreamed this poem)*

Someone I loved once gave me  
a box full of darkness.

It took me years to understand  
that this, too, was a gift.

– from *Thirst*, poems by Mary Oliver

**PRELUDE**      *Beautiful Scandalous Night* - Hindalong/Daugherty  
Susie Benton, soprano

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

## **PRAYER TO WELCOME GOD'S SPIRIT**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One:      At dusk we gather:

**All:      To be with the One who confronted the darkness.**

One:      By candlelight we gather:

**All:      To honor the One who gave everything for love.**

One:      In the quiet we gather:

**All:      To bear witness to the pain of betrayal.**

One:      In our hunger we gather:

**All:      To break the bread that binds us together.**

One:      In our thirst we gather:

**All:      To drink the Cup that fills us with grace.**

**\*HYMN** *What Wondrous Love is This*      Congregation: Verses 1 and 2

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this, that Christ should come in bliss  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**      John 13:1-17, 34-35  
Foot-washing Reenactment

### **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

How will people recognize us as followers of Jesus? By how we love one another.  
Let us confess the ways we have failed to love as Christ Jesus loves us.

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\*You are invited to rise, on your feet or in your hearts.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy One, you give us one command: to love one another. When our love is cautious or contingent; when we pour out kindness on those who respond in kind but withhold it from those who will not love us in return: forgive us, we pray. Teach us to practice love that does not count the cost, to love where it is most needed - even in the face of harm or hostility. Teach us to love as Christ first loved us, with our hands and with our feet. We pray this with our whole hearts. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** On this holiest of nights, we have received the Good News: God has come in Christ Jesus, to bathe us in grace and mercy, to fill us with light and love.

**All:** **Thanks be to God: In Christ we are made new! So loved, we share that love with one another.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

We invite you to join in a practice of the ancient church by greeting those around you, saying, "Peace" or "The peace of Christ be with you."

### **HYMN – *What Wondrous Love is This***

Congregation: Verse 3

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

May the God of incarnate love be with you.

**And also with you.**

Join your hearts with the One whose heart breaks in pieces this week.

**We offer our hearts for healing and hope.**

With songs too painful to sing, with sighs too deep to utter

**We lift our mournful souls to God.**

[Pastor continues...]

... Therefore, with those whose feet are covered with sin,  
and those whose hearts are gripped by sorrow,  
we join the choirs of every time and place,  
forever singing your praises:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of incarnate love,  
All creation is full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who will not desert us.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

... Every time we eat the bread, our brokenness is made whole;  
every time we drink from the cup, we receive unceasing grace;  
every time we come to the Table, we remember that mystery called faith:

**Remembering, we mourn Christ's death;  
Remembering, we look to the Day of Resurrection;  
Remembering, we await his return to us.**  
As we remember, we pray the words taught to us  
by Christ Jesus himself, saying:

**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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

... As you eat the grapes,  
mingle their sweetness with tears of hope,  
so we may carry this gift to all who have lost everything.

**And when there are no more hours to come,  
when there is only eternal peace and life with you,  
we will gather in that upper room called your heart,  
serving our families and friends with grace,  
receiving forgiveness from our enemies,  
singing your joy, forever and ever,  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **\*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

This is an open table: all are welcome. All bread is gluten-free.

## **ANTHEM**

*Lord, Be With Us On This Day – Althouse*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Lord, thank you for each moment: for the hard decision, the breathless gamble, the painful loss, the unexpected growing; for your persistent presence and the truth expanding in us. Thank you for bread and body and a heart broken for all, and for love that is stronger than death.  
Amen.**

## **TENEBRAE READINGS**

### **HYMN**

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*  
SAUGATUCK SINGERS: Verses 1, 2  
CONGREGATION: verse 3

No.196

**INVITATION** – A candle will be extinguished after each reading.

### **SHADOW OF BETRAYAL**

Matthew 26:20–25

**INTERLUDE** – *Sharing Paschal Bread and Wine* – Bringle/Morris – Verse 1

### **SHADOW OF DESERTION**

Matthew 26:30–35

### **SILENCE**

### **THE AGONY OF THE SOUL**

Luke 22: 39–44

**INTERLUDE** – Verse 4

### **THE UNSHARED VIGIL**

Mark 14:32–41

**INTERLUDE** – Verse 3

### **THE ARREST AT THE GATE**

John 18: 1–5

**INTERLUDE** – Verse 5

### **THE TRIAL BEFORE CAIAPHAS**

Matthew 26:57, 63–68

**INTERLUDE – Verse 6**

**THE SHADOW OF DENIAL**

Matthew 26:69–75

**INTERLUDE – Verse 7**

**JESUS BEFORE THE CROWD**

Matthew 27: 15-17, 21b–23

**SILENCE**

**THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS**

Mark 15: 16–20

**SOLO – *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* – Anthony DeLuco, tenor**

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**SILENT DEPARTURE**

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**Prayer Vigil:** Following the service, any are invited to stay and pray.  
The sanctuary will be open for silent prayer from 8 – 9 pm.

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Deep gratitude to our Board of Deacons for preparing and co-leading  
this evening's worship.

The Great Thanksgiving used in tonight's worship was written by Thom M. Shuman at  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2013/03/maundy-holy-thursday-c.html>  
and adapted over time by Cynthia Robinson and Alison Patton.

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**Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton, Pastor  
Liang-Fang Chang, Director of Music Ministry  
Susie Benton, Music Leader and Soloist  
Anthony DeLuco, Music Leader and Soloist  
Em Squatrito, Music Leader and Soloist  
Art Schoeller, Music Leader

**Livecast Production:**

Craig Patton

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**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

**Walk the Labyrinth**

Take time to prayerfully contemplate the events of Holy Week. Stop by the church anytime and walk the labyrinth located under the trees on the west side of the Great Front Lawn.

**Good Friday: Environmental Justice Stations of the Cross – A Prayerful All-Ages Walk, Friday, April 7, 10 am – 11:30 am, beginning at Christ & Holy Trinity:**

We will mark the stations of the cross, lament and pray for the healing of the earth during a walk through downtown Westport. In partnership with Christ & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and The Methodist Church of Westport and Weston. Meet in the courtyard of Christ & Holy Trinity, 75 Church Lane.

**Sunrise Service, Easter Sunday, April 9, 6:15 am on Compo Beach**

Welcome the dawn with joyful alleluias! In partnership with Greens Farms Congregational Church, Norfield Congregational Church and the Methodist Church of Westport and Weston.

**Festival Worship, Easter Sunday, April 9, 10 am** in the sanctuary:

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection with an all-ages worship, *followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn!*

**Sunday, April 16, 10 am Worship with the Pivot Ministries Choir and an in-worship interview with Pivot Director Rev. Richard Williams**, as part of our *Picture This* series.

**Earth Sunday, April 23, 10 am worship – *Living in God’s Garden***

Join us on the Sunday of Earth Day weekend as we give thanks for God’s blue-green earth. Hosted by the Environmental Justice Team, in partnership with Scout Troop 36.

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Learn more about Saugatuck Church at [www.saugatuckchurch.org](http://www.saugatuckchurch.org)



# Saugatuck

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## Congregational Church

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