

Celebration of Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

7:00 P.M.

*We are followers of Jesus Christ, living and sharing
the love of God through faith and action, welcoming all.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: On this day, Christ gathered with his disciples in an upper room.

People: We come as his disciples.

Leader: On this day, Christ shared a meal as a sign of his great love.

People: We come to taste his love.

Leader: On this day, Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet.

People: We come to honor our Servant Savior.

Introduction to the Service

Leader: We gather to mark the last day of Jesus' earthly life. After each part of the story is read, we will sing the printed refrain, using the familiar music of "Were You There?", and then spend a few moments in silent reflection and prayer.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Holy and mysterious God, as we gather around this table to listen to the story of the Last Supper, focus our attention with ears that are prepared to hear, minds prepared to learn, hands prepared to receive, and hearts prepared to love, even to the point of breaking. Draw us closer to Christ to receive his loving kindness. And draw us closer to you and to one another for the sake of Jesus, our Lord and friend. Amen.

Reading

Matthew 26:17-25

Sing

Were you there when he gathered with his friends?

Were you there when he gathered with his friends?

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he gathered with his friends?

(silence)

Reading

Matthew 26:26-30

The Lord's Supper

Sing

Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?

Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?

(silence)

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Leader: We gather together around this table, spread for us to remember the love, care and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

Prayer Over the Elements

Leader: Creator of heaven and earth, you spoke and order emerged from chaos, creation from the formless void, and life from the nothingness. You formed us in your image and called us to be your people. You spoke words of law and love to shape us as a community. Through the prophets, you called for justice and peace among us. In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh and lived among us, and in him we have seen your full glory. He shared our human nature; he lived and died as one of us. He healed the sick and sorrowing, ate and drank with outcasts, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom. He taught us to follow his way.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ and for all the gifts of your love and grace he offers. Pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become the body and blood of Christ for us. Nourished by them, may we become the body of Christ at work in the world. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Vine

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Holy God, on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment on our hearts, we pray, and strengthen us in service, in unity, and in love through Jesus Christ, our Lord and friend. Amen.

Anthem

"Who Is Jesus?"

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Chancel Choir

Jeffrey Honoré

Who is Jesus? Friend of sinners, whom in love the Father gave;

Born within a borrowed stable, laid within a borrowed grave,

Son of God and son of Mary, Son of Man, to seek and save.

Who is Jesus? Man of sorrows! See his glory all put by;

Prince of life and sinner's ransom stumbles forth to bleed and die.

Lamb of God and Love immortal hangs upon the cross on high.

Who is Jesus? Risen Savior to his throne restored, restored,

Firstborn of the new creation, sun and star and saints' reward.

Prince of glory, King of ages, Christ the ever-living Lord, the living Lord.

Reading

John 13:1-17, 31-35
Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples

Sing

**Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?
Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?**

(silence)

Washing of Hands

Leader: On the night of his arrest, Jesus gave the disciples a new example for them by washing their feet. In this act of a servant, he called them to serve one another. You are invited to come forward to be washed and to wash one another, to be served and to serve one another. Remember your baptism and Christ's call to serve humbly as he has served us.

Reading

Matthew 26:36-46
In Gethsemane

Sing

**Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?
Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?**

(silence)

Reading

Matthew 26:47-56
The Betrayal and Arrest

Sing

**Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?
Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?**

(silence)

Commission

Leader: Go in peace, carrying the love of Jesus within you. Share it in his name and know that you are loved by God, who is creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude



WORSHIP SERVICE



Webster Presbyterian Church
