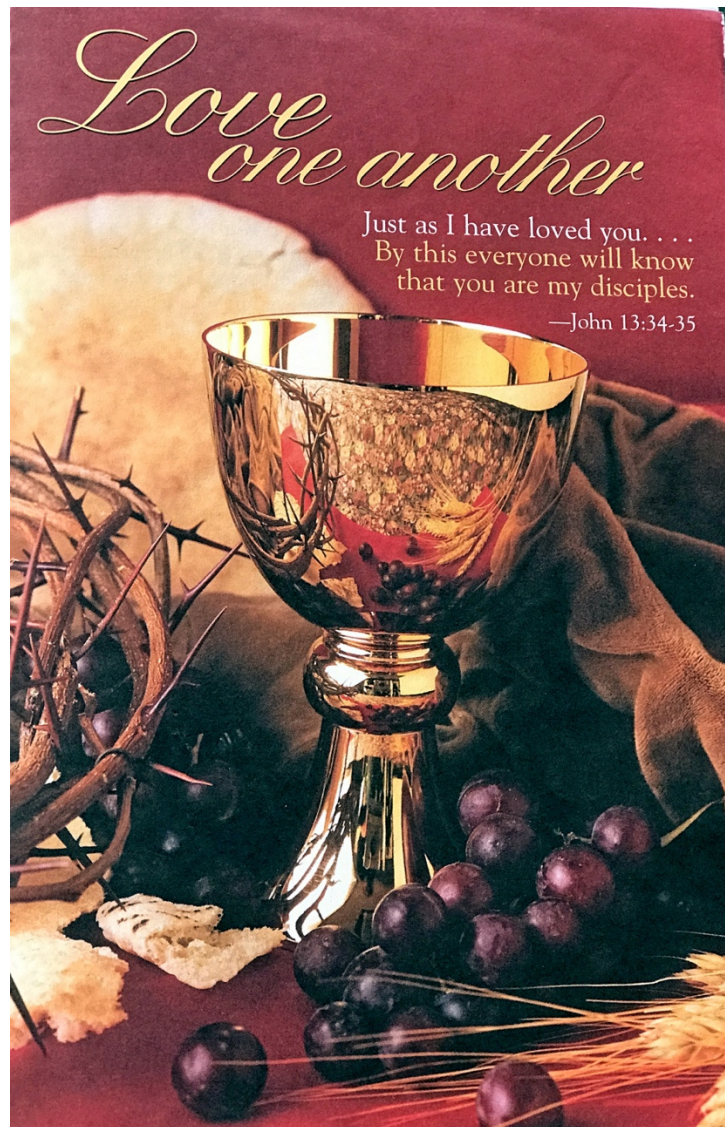


North Congregational UCC New Harford CT
WORSHIP: HOLY THURSDAY WITH TENEBRAE
April 1, 2021

NOTES ON TONIGHT'S SERVICE: The Sacrament of Holy Communion comes from the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples in an upper room as recorded in the Gospel of John. Immediately following this meal, which some scholars believe was a Passover celebration, Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane where he prays, is arrested and put on trial. John recounts a foot washing that led to Jesus admonishing the disciples and offers up a new commandment (mandere - to Command) from which we derive the term "Maundy Thursday." The second part of tonight's service is called Tenebrae or "shadows" and comes from a practice established by Christian communities in the 4th. Century. Different versions of readings and remembrances exist. The one tonight is one Rev. Art has used throughout his pastoral ministry.



PRELUDE MUSIC

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: Let us come together in the spirit of thanksgiving and humble gratitude. We remember this special night from long ago when Jesus shared this last meal with the disciples. We are asked to partake of this meal as a sign of community among ourselves and with our risen Lord. We offer our praise for this meal of salvation and hope.

HYMN OF GATHERING #203 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

REFRAIN:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (refrain)

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
neighbors are near and far away. (refrain)

These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. (refrain)

Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you. (refrain)

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Savior, a new commandment you gave to your disciples, that we should love one another as you have loved us. Using a basin and water, you gave us a powerful example of how far love can travel. Keep that image before us, especially when we think some task is beneath us. You have shown us we cannot change the world without changing ourselves. In this community of faith, endow us with enough respect and reverence for your example that we become willing to serve each other with gentle devotion and offer each other a limitless supply of forgiveness. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:1-17, 31b-35

May God bless this reading and add to our understanding what God is asking of us this day.
Amen

MEDITATION:

SHARING IN THE LAST SUPPER

PASTOR: God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. As we partake in this meal of remembrance we enact our faith. We put aside our arrogance, our pride, our uncertainty, our fear of what might happen and embrace this moment of fellowship in Jesus' presence. The body broken is restored to wholeness; lifeblood poured out brings healing to us and to our world.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: We dream O God of community, but in our waking hours we forget such hopes. You call us individually with arms outstretched upon a cross. You name us as your own and offer forgiveness. So now, as we receive you in these elements, we embrace everyone, we desire to serve everyone and bring into reality a community of wholeness. The elements are for us your body broken and lifeblood poured out that we may be transformed so that our lives lived may be a blessing to the world. Amen

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PASTOR: On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to those with him at the table. He said, "take, eat this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." He took the cup and said, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

DESCENT INTO DARKNESS-TENEBRAE SERVICE

(There will be seven readings. If possible we ask that you have seven lit candles in an otherwise darkened space. After each reading extinguish one candle. Each reading is followed by a music response. At the end of the seventh reading (vocal recordings) there will be a video depicting the crucifixion of Christ and a solo meditation. We will end the service with The Lord's Prayer and an Organ Postlude).

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL Matthew 26:20-25

Music

THE SHADOW OF INNER AGONY Luke 22:39-44

Music

THE SHADOW OF LONELINESS Matthew 26:40-46

Music

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION Matthew 26:47-50, 55-56

Music

THE SHADOW OF DENIAL Matthew 26:69-75

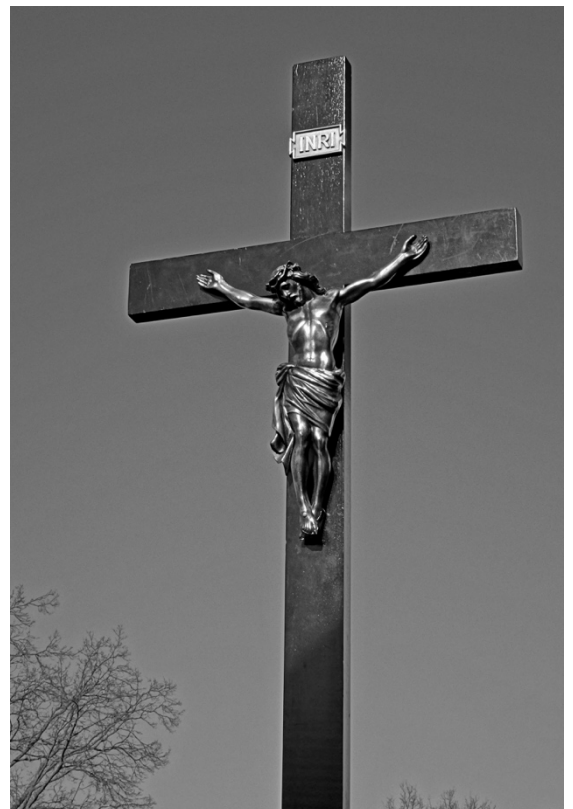
Music

THE SHADOW OF MOCKERY Mark 15:12-20

Music

THE SHADOW OF DEATH Luke 23 33-46

Music



THE LORD'S PRAYER

POSTLUDE

We join together in Celebration of EASTER 10 A.M. at North Congregational Church Sanctuary For an indoor celebration. The church will be cleaned, masks mandatory and seated minimally six feet apart. For those uncomfortable with attending, the service will be online on the webpage later in the day.