

WELCOME TO  
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

April 9, 2020

Rev. Andy Sonneborn

Maundy Thursday

Ringing of the Bell  
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We are Jesus' disciples, following him even as he moves toward the cross, even as he wraps a towel around his waist, even as he kneels to wash the filth from the feet of his friends. We are Jesus' disciples, longing to be faithful even as the night grows dark, even as betrayers loom, even as the powers that oppose the way of Christ press in around us. We are Jesus' disciples, struggling to love others even as Jesus loved us. We are Jesus' disciples, gathered here to worship God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.

Call to Confession

Pastor Andy: God calls into judgment all that distracts us from true worship: our possessions, our busy activities, our love of comfort and security. Christ's way of humble service challenges our desire for recognition and applause. We are summed before God to rid ourselves of our pretenses, that we may be empowered for discipleship. Let us confess our sins before God and before each other, saying:

\*Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak...when we have failed to serve as Jesus served; forgive us. When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us; forgive us. When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion

to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions; forgive us. Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. In this moment of silence, we confess the sin that separates us from one another and from God...

Moment of Silence to Confess our Sins

Pastor Andy...Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world," and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Gospel Lesson

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (CEB)

**13** Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later." <sup>8</sup> "No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet but also

my hands and my head!” <sup>10</sup> Jesus responded, “Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you.” <sup>11</sup> He knew who would betray him. That’s why he said, “Not every one of you is clean.” <sup>12</sup> After he washed the disciples’ feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, “Do you know what I’ve done for you? <sup>13</sup> You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you speak correctly, because I am. <sup>14</sup> If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. <sup>16</sup> I assure you, servants aren’t greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them. Jesus said, “Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself and will glorify him immediately. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I’m with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—‘Where I’m going, you can’t come.’ <sup>34</sup> “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. <sup>35</sup> This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

Message “Love One Another”

Acts of Compassion and Love

Tonight, we remember the time Jesus had supper with his disciples and friends for the last time. I mourn that we are not gathered in person to have Holy Communion together.

So, tonight, after the benediction in a second, I want you to gather with your loved ones. If you haven’t had dinner yet, eat dinner together as a family. Maybe light some candles and share some of your favorite stories or memories from childhood. Share stories about the good things going on in your lives. Share the concerns and lift them up in prayer. Just spend time as a family. If you have already had dinner, you can gather and share the stories in the living room.

After dinner, I want you to get an empty bowl, and a pitcher of warm water. Put them on the dining room table, gather as a family around the bowl, get several hand towels and wash each other’s hands. This simple act reminds us of the time on Maundy Thursday that Jesus took to wash his disciples as an act of servitude.

If you live alone, call up a loved one and spend some time sharing with them what they mean to you. Share a story and/or a prayer with them. If you do not have anyone to call, you can always call me.

This is a night to share the love of Christ with each other.

Charge and Benediction

Leader: We are the body of Christ.

**All: May we have the heart of Christ,**

Leader: tender for mercy.

**All: May we have the eyes of Christ**

Leader: to see a world in need.

**All: May we have the feet of Christ**

Leader: to bring good news.

**All: Go in peace!**

Leader: And God go with you.