



Maundy Thursday Service
April 17, 2025

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**
Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
389 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 5

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

Leading Worship

Bold Black Ballerina (BBB), Xiaomeng Han, Jack Haskell, Julia La Grand, Casey Marsh, Will Marshall, Lucy Metz, Angela Servello-Jones, and Phil Servello-Jones, *Tenebrae Readers*
BBB and Dave Kidder, *Foot-Washing Ritual*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Communications & Christian Formation*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Emma Mitchell, *Pastoral Associate*
Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*
Mike Solberg, *Interim Senior Minister*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Bulletin Cover Image *Washing of the Feet* by [John August Swanson](#) (1938-2021)

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a welcome card found on small clipboards in the pews or [online](#), so that we might connect with you about our community.

Give to First Church

You can give electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

GATHERING

*For those participating at home, we invite you bring bread or crackers
and juice or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion.
All are welcome at the Table!*

*For those in person, you are invited to come forward during the opening Voluntary
to pour a bit of water from a pitcher into the font,
as an embodied connection to the foot-washing ritual.*

VOLUNTARY

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

J. S. Bach

***HYMN (insert)**

Come, Gather in This Peaceful Place

see page 5

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING

Kate Layzer and Mike Solberg

PRAYER

TELLING THE STORY

READING

Exodus 12:1-11

Sarah Higginbotham

READING

John 13:34-35

READING

John 13:1-17

Emma Mitchell

FOOT-WASHING RITUAL

BBB and Dave Kidder

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

***GREETING OF PEACE**

ANTHEM

Now

Jaroslav Vajda

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- L: How good it is to praise you, evening light!
Your beauty ushers in the sunset,
and in your light we see light—
- C: justice for the nations, mercy for the broken-hearted,
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak, and forgiveness for the sinner.**
- L: You reveal your love in joy and sorrow,
and we know your wonder even in the shadow of death.
- C: All your creatures behold your works
and testify to your faithfulness.**
- L: And so we too, fragile lamps in your holy house,
raise our hearts in praise. Amen.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

- L: Now, O God, we remember Jesus, our brother.
Silence
- L: We remember that he desired to eat the Passover with his friends.
- C: He arranged for a meal, his last in this life.**
- L: We remember that he gave them a new commandment:
- C: “Love one another as I have loved you.”**
- L: We remember that he gave them an example:
- C: He knelt before them and washed their feet.**
- L: We remember that his betrayer was with him.
- C: Jesus loved and served him, too.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)

- All: Our Creator, 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.**

*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion, and love are invited to partake of this feast. If you are in the sanctuary, please approach one of the stations at the front. The cups contain grape juice. The bread is gluten free. Please bring your bulletins with you for the prayer and hymn that we will share in the round.

If you are joining us online, take and eat, for this is the bread of heaven and the cup of joy—the gifts of God for all God's people!

*THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

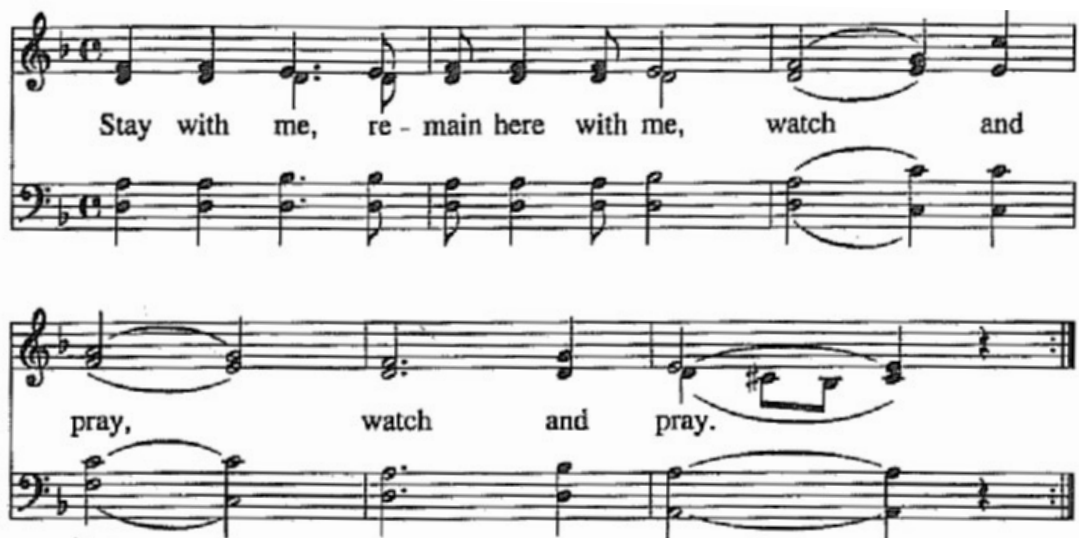
**C: Thank you, God, for life in the spirit of Jesus,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

L: And when they had sung the hymn,
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

*HYMN 196

Stay with Me

We will sing through the hymn four times. After we've sung it twice, you are invited, while still singing, to return to the pews for the Office of Tenebrae.



THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

FIRST READING	Luke 22:39-46	Phil Servello-Jones
SILENCE AND CHANT	Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray. <i>(sing twice through)</i>	
SECOND READING	Mark 14:39-42	Lucy Metz
SILENCE AND CHANT		
THIRD READING	Luke 22:47-50	Bold Black Ballerina
SILENCE AND CHANT		
FOURTH READING	Luke 22:51-53	Xiaomeng Han
SILENCE AND CHANT		
FIFTH READING	Mark 14:53-61	Jack Haskell
SILENCE AND CHANT		
SIXTH READING	Luke 22:66-71	Angela Servello-Jones
SILENCE AND CHANT		
SEVENTH READING	Luke 22:54-58	Casey Marsh
SILENCE AND CHANT		
EIGHTH READING	Luke 22:59-62	Will Marshall
SILENCE AND CHANT		
NINTH READING	Mark 15:1-5	Julia La Grand
SILENCE		

*When the lights rise, you may leave the service in silence when you are ready,
knowing you are held by God and this community in divine love and grace.*

*Please join us for the continuation of our worship
at our Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow evening in the Chapel.*

OPENING HYMN

Come, Gather in This Peaceful Place 312

Unison

1., 4. Come, gath - er in this peace-ful place; the ta - ble here is
 2. The grapes have yield - ed es - sence pure, a drink to quench the
 3. The bread is fresh - ly baked to - day, a fra - grant feast of

long and wide; for all who heed com - mu - nion's call, there's
 grav - est thirst; the cup is passed from hand to hand, and
 grain sup - plied; and e - ven crumbs that dust our palms will

room for thou - sands side by side.
 each will sense de - spair re - versed.
 leave souls ful - ly sat - is - fied. (repeat vs. 1)

WORDS: Phil Porter, 1991, alt. © 1991
 MUSIC: Elaine Kirkland, 1991. © 1991

GATHER
 LM

A NOTE ON HOLY WEEK SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES TO “THE JEWS”

As Christians, we live under the burden of the Church’s sad and violent history of antisemitism, in the sobering shadow of the Holocaust, and with the painful awareness of current events in Israel/Palestine. It is particularly important not to replicate practices that sinfully sustain such antisemitism, including in the way we translate the New Testament into English.

In the story that unfolds in our scripture readings tonight, there is clearly dire conflict between Jesus and his adversaries. Regrettably, those adversaries have often been called “the Jews” in English translations, including in our pew Bibles. Tonight, we are using a different translation for the original Greek term: “the Judeans.” When speaking of the group in conflict with Jesus, the original text refers to the indigenous Temple and synagogue authorities of Judaea, who are themselves aligned with the Roman powers of the day. This was primarily a political conflict, and had nothing to do with virulent racial ideologies of our day.

References to “the Judeans” should never be understood as a blanket condemnation of Jews in particular or in general. It is particularly important to emphasize this at a time in which anti-Jewish hate speech and acts of violence are increasing worldwide.

Human sin plays out among different people in different ways in this story: alignment with violent power, weakness of faith, denial of responsibility, self-preservation, and more. As the Gospels proclaim: “They all forsook him and fled.” May we always see ourselves in this story, and refrain from using it to sow further division.

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

 /firstchurchcambridge  /FirstChurchInCambridge  /c/FirstChurchInCambridge