

**BACON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
A family of faith since 1922**

166 59th Street  
Niagara Falls, New York 14304-3812

716-283-5744

Church office hours - Mon., Wed., Fri.  
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**April 2, 2026 – Maundy Thursday**

**7 pm**

Large Print bulletin available - ask an usher

Please silence all cell phones before worship.

\* Please stand if you are able.

**ENTER TO WORSHIP**

In Silence....

**PRELUDE / Gathering in Silence**

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**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: On the night he was betrayed,  
Jesus gathered with his friends.

**People: He took bread, blessed it, and broke it.**

Leader: He poured wine and spoke of a new covenant.

**People: He washed feet and gave a new commandment.**

**All: To love one another as he has loved us.**

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**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God,

on this holy night we gather with humble hearts.

As we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples,

teach us again what it means to serve, to love, and to give ourselves for others.

Prepare us to follow Christ in faithfulness,

even into the shadows of this holy week.

Amen.

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## SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1–17

*John 13:1-17*

*13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet<sup>l</sup> but is entirely clean. And yo<sup>l</sup> are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."*

*<sup>12</sup> After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers<sup>ld</sup> greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*

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## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Leader: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

People: Lord, teach us to love as you love.

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Leader: Jesus knelt to serve his disciples.

All: As we worship together tonight,  
may we learn the humility and love of Christ.

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## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we do not always love as Christ has loved us.**

**We cling to power rather than serve.**

**We turn away when love costs too much.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and reshape us**

**by the self-giving love of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

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## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Responsive)**

Leader: Hear the good news:

Jesus loves us to the end.

In Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*(Read in Unison)*

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

**<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy and gracious God,

we give you thanks and praise,

for from the beginning you have loved us

and called us into covenant with you.

When we wandered, you did not abandon us.

You spoke through prophets,

you shaped a people of hope,

and in the fullness of time

you sent Jesus Christ, your Son.

In this meal,

you show us love that kneels to serve,

love that pours itself out,

love that holds nothing back.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be the body of Christ in the world—  
loving as he loved,  
serving as he served,  
giving ourselves for others.

As we share this feast,  
unite us with Christ,  
with one another,  
and with all who hunger for grace.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours,  
almighty God, now and forever.  
Amen.

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP** (we will pass the elements to one another)

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*John 18:15-27*

### **Peter Denies Jesus**

**<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup> but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” <sup>18</sup> Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.**

### **The High Priest Questions Jesus**

**<sup>19</sup> Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.**

### **Peter Denies Jesus Again**

**<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” <sup>26</sup> One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” <sup>27</sup> Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.**

## **STRIPPING OF THE CHAPEL**

**Agnus Dei – Samuel Barber, VOCES8**

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## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Jesus, servant and Savior,  
you have loved us completely.  
As we leave this place,  
help us carry your commandment in our lives,  
to love one another,  
just as you have loved us.  
Amen.**

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## **DISMISSAL**

Leader: Stay awake.

Watch and pray.

**All: We will walk in love as we follow Christ.**

*(The congregation departs in silence.)*