

**Welcome to New Bethel Baptist Church**

**Maundy Thursday Worship**

**April 9, 2020**

***Come and Remember***

**Maundy Thursday Order of Worship**

**Prelude** Dr. Christina Romero-Ivanova

**The Church Gathers**

**Call to Worship** Julianne

Leader: Come and remember the love of Jesus, gathered at table with his friends.

**Church: We come to receive from Christ the bread of life, the cup of blessing.**

Leader: Come, receive the mercy that Christ offers each of us.

**Church: We come to receive Christ’s challenge to “Love one another.”**

Leader: We come to travel the way of the Cross with Jesus.

**Unison: Let us worship together and reflect upon the life of Christ, that we might**

**remember what discipleship costs, and what it may reap.**

**Invocation and Lord’s Prayer** *(using “sins”)*

Holy God, Draw us into worship with a spirit of humility. Let us gather with open hearts prepared to love, even to the point of breaking, as we seek to receive this story with our whole selves. In drawing closer to Christ and his crucified love, may we draw closer to you and your beloved world. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, Our Father . . .

**Opening Scripture Readings**

Genesis 1:1-2 (Pastor Janet) and John 1:1-3b (Julianne) (pause)

Genesis 1:3-4a (Pastor Janet) and John 1:3c-4 (Julianne) (pause)

Genesis 1:4b-5a (Pastor Janet) and John 1:5 (Julianne) (pause)

**Hymn of Invocation** *The Family Prayer Song* #454

**Time of Confession and Forgiveness**

**Prayer of Confession** Pastor Janet

Leader: One of the liberating joys of worship is that worship brings us together with two

millennia of believers who came, as we do today, expressing gratitude for God’s salvation as well as our need of God’s continuing mercy, love, and forgiveness. Let us pray together . . .

**Church:** **Blessed Father, gracious Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal Trinity, eternal light, we**

**pray you would grace us with your presence, that your light would penetrate our darkness in those spaces within us that have until now been hidden. We ask that you bring to light our thoughts and behaviors that keep us from loving you, loving ourselves, and from loving our neighbors. May we repent and be forgiven. We pray this for the sake of your kingdom and the benefit of the world. Amen.**

*(Silent prayer of confession)*

Leader Julianne

As a confession of our darkness, our contribution to the darkness in the world, and our

desire to live in the light, let us join our spirits with the saints of ages past and sing the

following hymn together.

**Hymn of Confession** *Cleanse Me,* verses 1 and 3 #657

**Scripture Response** Romans 8:33-35a, 38-39Pastor Janet

**Congregational Response** *Alleluia,* verses 1 and 4 #189

**Scripture Readings with Congregational Response**

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 42:1-9 Julianne

Leader: The Lord calls us in righteousness.

**Church: Lord, teach us your way.**

**Psalm Reading** Psalm 143 Pastor Janet

Leader: Lord, our spirit grows weak and faint.

**Church: Revive us that we may serve you.**

**Gospel Reading** John 3:17-21 Julianne

Leader: Lord, teach us the deeds of light,

**Church: That we may follow and be your hands and feet.**

Leader: Let us listen in order to receive the light, that we might hear our call.

**Humble Service to One Another**

**Scripture reading** Matthew 26:6-13 Pastor Janet

**Anointing Prayer** Pastor Janet

Leader: God’s first act after creating the heavens and earth was to bring light. When the

woman of Bethany anointed Jesus’ head, she offered a humble service to the light that was soon to be extinguished.

One way we can offer humble service is to offer prayers for those whose light in life is precarious. With the oil of God’s Holy Spirit, let us together anoint these ones. As we pray together, let us imagine ourselves, each with our own bottle of anointing oil, touching those for whom we are praying, or perhaps signing their foreheads with a cross. Let us pray together . . .

Leader: For all leaders of politically troubled countries,

**Church: We anoint them with God’s spirit of justice and light.**

Leader: For all families who suffer from political oppression,

**Church: We anoint them with God’s spirit of hope and light.**

Leader: For all those who are being smothered by the drives of power and greed,

**Church: We anoint them with God’s spirit of repentance and light.**

Leader: For all those who are dying of illness or disease.

**Church: We anoint them with God’s spirit of comfort and light.**

Leader: For all those who are now saying good-bye to a beloved friend or family member,

**Church: We anoint them with God’s spirit of presence and light.**

Leader: For all those who see suicide as the only solution to their troubles,

**Church: We anoint them with God’s spirit of hope and pray for God to fan a flame of**

**light.**

Leader: For all those who are being consumed by poverty,

**Church: We anoint them with God’s spirit of comfort and the light of protection.**

Leader: For all those who are living lives of fear, anxiety, and quiet desperation,

**Church: We anoint them with God’s healing spirit of peace and light. Amen.**

**Washing of Hands**

**Scripture Reading** John 13:1-17 Pastor Janet

Leader

Handwashing takes on a special significance for us these days in light of Covid-19. It can now be a matter of life and death. Yet we also need spiritual cleansing. May we not be like Pilate who washes his hands of the whole Jesus business. May we instead share in the intimacy that Jesus shared with his disciples and be immersed in Jesus’ ministry and be empowered to follow our Lord and Savior in and through all things.

*(Period of silence for handwashing and silent prayer)*

**Unison Prayer** Pastor Janet **Come now, mighty Spirit of God, through this washing, make us one body in Christ, that, bound together in this act of love, we are no longer held by the principalities and powers of this world that enslave creation, but instead, know your liberating peace such as the world cannot give. Amen.**

Leader Julianne

Let us seal our prayers, our anointing, and our washing with a hymn of faith.

**Congregational Hymn of Assurance** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* #539

Leader: May you receive the peace of Christ that you have extended to others. Julianne

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper**

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 26:26-29 Pastor Janet

Leader Pastor Janet

The daily calling of servanthood is how God draws us out of our darkness and into God’s light. In order to be salt and light for the world, we need the Lord’s constant nurture and forgiveness. May we receive that light, that nurture, and that forgiveness in the taking of the bread and the cup. Let us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s Supper with our Communion Hymn.

**Communion Hymn** *Come to the Table* #464

**Unison Prayer** Julianne

**Gracious God and Father of all that ever was, is, and shall be,**

**We bless you that from the beginning of time, you have been calling your people out of the darkness of our human condition and into the light of your saving life. We bless you that Jesus entered our darkness and wore it as his garment, that he gave up the clothing of the heavens for the clothing of the earth. We thank you for the bread and the cup, which call us and enable us to walk in the ways of Jesus. We pray that you would use this bread and this cup to fill us with the mind of Christ, that our darkness would be pierced by your light, that the bread and the cup would invigorate us to follow Jesus’ example of loving service in this your world. Amen.**

**Words of Institution** Pastor Janet

Leader: On the night before Jesus died . . .

**Congregational Hymn** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #426

**To the Cross**

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 26:36-56 Julianne

**Lenten Meditation** Red Candle Extinguished Julianne

**Congregational Hymn** *Were You There?,* verses 1 - 3 #315

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 26:57-27:51, 57-60 Julianne and Pastor Janet

**Stripping of the Sanctuary**

**Meditation Prayer** Pastor Janet

**Christ Candle Extinguished**