

Cuero First United Methodist Church

Rev. Jackie Freeman Maundy Thursday April 1, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

A meal of bread and wine, of meat and bitter herbs.

The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.

As we break the bread and share the cup,

our understanding may fail us.

But we will never forget Christ's example.

We will never forget the full extent of his love.

Hymn

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

UMH 629 Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Scripture Reading

Confession and Pardon

God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus — Savior and Lord — who at his last meal with his disciples gave them — and us — that new commandment: "…love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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. Amen.

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!**

Scripture Lesson

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Message

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

During this time, we will be remembering the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples. On the left side of the sanctuary, you may come and take communion when you are ready. Down the center aisle, you will have the opportunity to receive anointing. On the right side of the sanctuary, you will be able to come to the altar rail and pray. We will have markings so that we can continue to social distance and be safe. This will be a time for each of us to remember and reflect. You can go to the various stations as the Spirit leads you. Once we see that all have had the chance to commune, we will continue with the rest of the service. Please take your time and do not feel rushed to move on.

Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

UMH 292 vs. 1, 2, 3

Stripping of the Church

The ancient practice of stripping the Lord's Table and sanctuary following communion is a vivid and dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane and what followed. The items will be carried from the sanctuary in silence. After the stripping of the church, the Christ candle will be processed out of the sanctuary to symbolize the darkness that would come upon the world after the death of Jesus. After the Christ candle is taken out, it will be brought back in and placed in the center of the altar. This is symbolic of the light of Christ that Christians know is still in the world even in the darkness. After the candle is placed, you are free to spend time in prayer either in your seat or you may come to the altar rail and pray. We ask that you leave in silence and wait until you are outside to greet one another. There will not be a benediction.

Please leave in silence as we begin the time of waiting.

