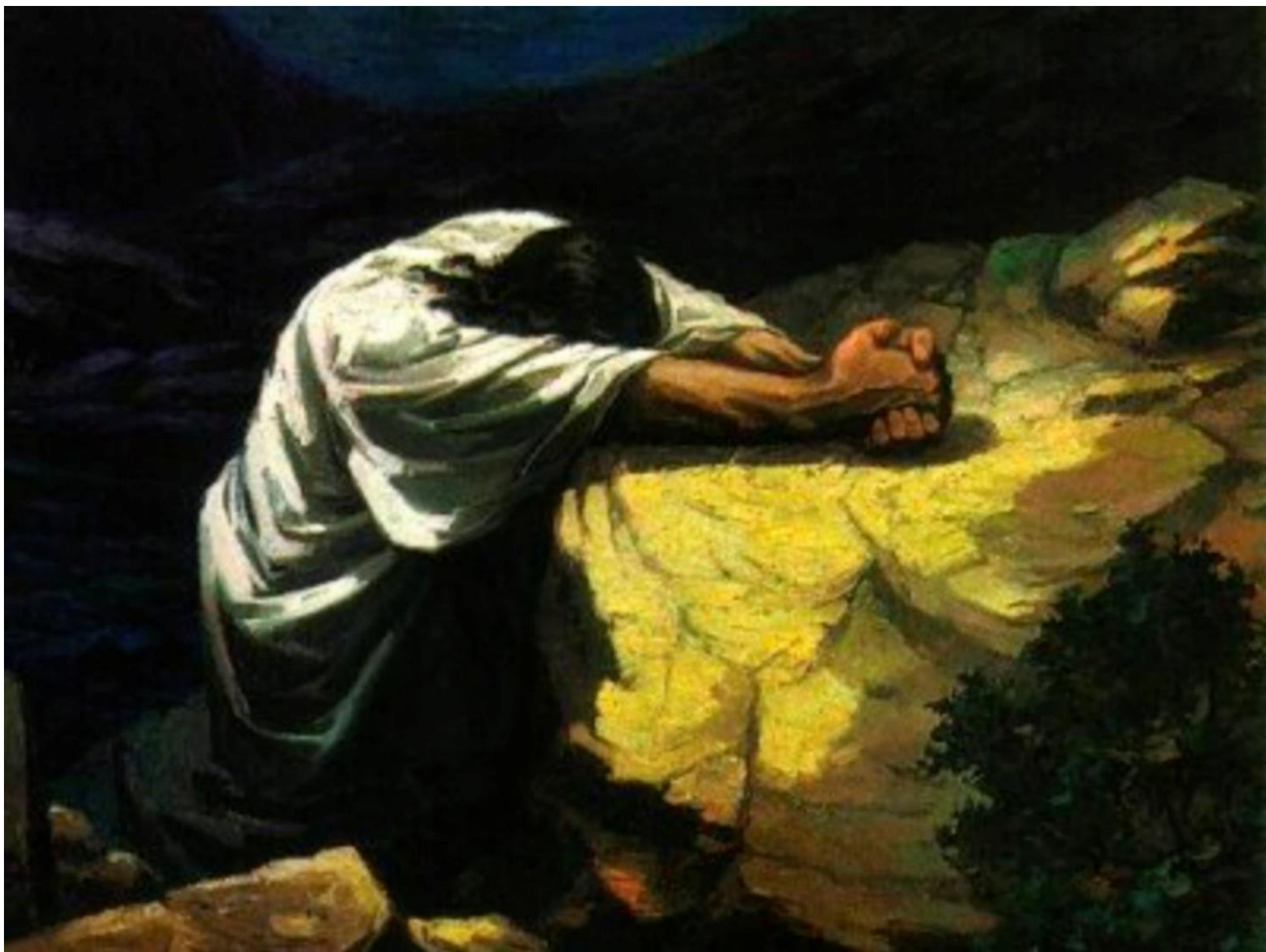


Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



Cover image: public domain

3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
Office: 216-321-2660

Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Maundy Thursday Service

April 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm

You may also join worship online using this link:

<https://youtu.be/-2cVSRoMKo8>

PRELUDE:

WELCOME:

The service of worship tonight is taken from an early Christian service called Tenebrae. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "darkness" or "shadows." Tonight, we will experience a symbolic portion of Christ's pain and suffering the day of his crucifixion. One of the most conspicuous features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. As it gets darker and darker we reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real for Jesus that evening. Toward the end of the service, the Christ candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. The hidden candle is then restored to its place on Easter morning. By dim light we all depart this service in silence.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. **Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.**

Beloved people of God: This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever.

This is the day when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another.

This is the day when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

GATHERING HYMN NO. 202:

"An Upper Room did Our Lord Prepare"

CONFESSION AND PARDON:

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ, you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM:

Pepper Choplin

"We Are Not Alone"
Chancel Choir
Jack Lentz, soloist

READING 1:

Sonji Kenyatta
Matthew 26: 20-30

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:
Almighty God, ruler of the universe, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance. You enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. We thank you for the deep love of Jesus, which moved him to give himself for the redemption of all creation. We thank you for the grace we experience in receiving these symbols of the life Christ gave for others, and for us. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:
Leader: On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you; do this remembering me."
After supper Jesus took the cup and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant; whenever you drink it, do so remembering me."

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION:
Creator God, we thank you for the nourishment you give us -- for bread, and fruit of the vine. God of freedom, we thank you that you do not leave us in bondage, but act in power to liberate us from all oppression. We thank you that Christ, acting in courage and faith, has won for us the victory over sin and death. May the bread and wine be signs of your renewed covenant with us, and may we be ever faithful, until the coming of your final Shalom. Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

PRAYER:
We thank you, Lord, for giving us this holy meal; and for giving us your presence and your life. Amen.

- READING 2:

Derry Stauffer
Matthew 26: 31-35
- READING 3:

Karen Loughridge
Mark 14: 32-42
- READING 4:

Deborah Erwin
Matthew 26: 47-56
- READING 5:

Leslie Clement
Luke 22: 54-65
- READING 6:

Jeanette Nemcek
John 18:33-38a
- READING 7:

Kate Burleigh
Matthew 27: 20-31

HYMN NO. 221:

“O Sacred Head”

First Verse – Congregation
Second Verse – Choir
Third Verse – Soloist

*O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.*

The Christ candle is hidden. The drum symbolizes the agony of Jesus’ death.

READING 8:

Dean Sieck
Psalm 22: 1-11

HYMN NO. 228

Sing as prompted by the cantor

“Were You There”

BENEDICTION
Leader: Go into the world in peace, knowing that God has made the ultimate sacrifice through Jesus, who is the Christ. Love one another, as Christ loves you, now and forever. Amen.

Please depart from the service in silence.