

GATHERING PRAYER

[one] : Let us pray together

**[all] : God of light and truth, grant us peace as we gather tonight.
May we draw closer to you as we recall again the service and
suffering of Christ, in whose name we meet and pray. Amen**

OPENING HYMN *Father, I Adore You* FWS 2038

PRAYER

[one] : God of grace and truth, as we move from the brightness of the day's light to the enfolding darkness of the night-time, help us to know your light in our hearts, that in our need for forgiveness and strength your gracious word may be known.

**[all] : And then help us to go from this place renewed in spirit.
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE:

[one] : Lord Christ, in the evening of this day, forgive us for our lack of attention to you, our absence of word and action in following you, and our denial of your place within our lives ...

(Silence for personal confession)

Help us to know your Spirit with us, your gracious forgiveness,
and your strength in our hearts,

[all] : That we may more closely follow you. Amen

HYMN *Make Me a Servant* FWS 2176

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL READING (JOHN 13) & CANDLE-LIGHTING

Action 1 – washing, John 13:1–5:

[one] : Lord, hear us.

[all] : Lord, fill us with your truth.

The first candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

Action 2 – cleansing, John 13:6–11:

[one]: Lord, hear us.

[all] : Lord, cleanse us through your grace.

The second candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

Action 3 – serving, John 13:12–17:

[one]: Lord, hear us.

[all] : Lord, fill us with your humble love.

The third candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

Action 4 – betraying, John 13:18–30:

[one] : Lord, hear us.

[all] : Lord, fill us with your strength.

The fourth candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

Action 5 – leaving, John 13:31–33:

[one] : Lord, hear us.

[all] : Lord, fill us with your hope.

The fifth candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

Action 6 – loving, John 13:34–35:

[one] : Lord, hear us.

[all] : Lord, fill us with your compassionate love.

The sixth candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

Action 7 – denying, John 13:36–38:

[one] : Lord, hear us.

**[all] : Lord, fill us with your courage, your love and your
humility. Help us in the night-time shadows of fear
to know the continuing light of your presence,
that we may be seen and heard as your people. Amen**

The seventh candle is lit, followed by pause for reflection ...

HOLY COMMUNION

[one] : May you know that the Lord is with you.

[all] : And also with you.

[one] : May you open your heart to him this night.

[all] : May you know his love within you.

[one] : Even in the foreboding presence of darkness

[all] : May his light shine forth.

[one] : In the beginning, before betrayal and denial, O God, creator of all that is seen and not seen, you blessed us with the gift of this universe and this world in which we live...

...In remembrance of all that has been done for us, through the word of creation, and the word of prophecy, and the word of all-giving grace, we join with voices around us and beyond us in the song of everlasting praise:

[all] : **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

[one] : On this night Christ our Lord gathered with his friends...
...Therefore, O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be the body and blood of Christ for us, that we may be his body in this world.

[all] : **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

[one] : Christ invites us to share in bread and wine.

[all] : **Christ invites us to share in service and humility.**

[one] : Christ invites us to share in strength and renewal.

[all] : **We gather in faith.**

Bread and wine are shared ...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[all] : **We give you thanks and praise, O God, that even in the darkness of this night, your light shines.**

We rejoice that we have shared with Christ around his table, and we pray for his strength as we continue to be his body in this world. Amen

HYMN

Let Us Be Bread

FWS 2260

CLOSING WORDS: Mark 14:32-34

There is no final blessing tonight, as the events continue into tomorrow and then to Easter morning resurrection. The candles remain lit as a sign of hope, as we depart quietly into the night.

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Seven Actions

A service of prayer and Holy Communion

for Maundy Thursday



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Trinity United Methodist Church
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www.trinityvt.org