Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
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MAUNDY THURSDAY
United Church of Chester
United Church of Christ
April 2, 2026 7:00 p.m.

The Light of the World

PRELUDE *The Spotless Lamb* Charity Boyles

INTROIT *The Lord Is In His Holy Temple*

CALL TO WORSHIP
Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O God.
The night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.
Let us pray together:
Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine the day, and the moon and the stars to shine by night. Kindle in us the flame of your love, that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light, and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness; Amen.

*HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* 187

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thy only crown, how art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain; mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place; look on me with thy favor, vouch-safe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend; for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? O make me thine forever; and, should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love to thee!

PHOS HILARON *O Gracious Light*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Psalm 51.1-17, unison (Pew Bible, p.509)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being, therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ministry of Word and Sacrament

ANTHEM *Stay With Me* H. Sorenson

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 22.7-23

*HYMN *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face* 320

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; here would I touch and handle things unseen; here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace, and all my weariness upon thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven; here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

This is the hour of banquet and of song; this is the heavenly table spread for me; here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong the brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear; the feast, though not the love, is past and gone; the bread and wine remove, but thou art here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

My strength renewed through holy food and word, into thy world I go again refreshed; prepared to humbly serve as I am served, I fail not when by thee so fully blessed.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

ANTHEM *Christ We Do All Adore Thee* T. Dubois

The Order for Tenebrae

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL Matthew 26.20-25
THE SHADOW OF DESERTION Matthew 26.31-35
THE AGONY OF A SOUL Luke 22.39-44
THE UNSHARED VIGIL Mark 14.32-41
THE HOUR IS COME John 17.1-6
THE ARREST AT THE GATE John 18.1-5, 12
THE SHADOW OF CONDEMNATION Mark 14.53, 55-64
LIGHT AND LIFE John 1.1-4, 14; I John 1.5-7; John 3.19-21

† Go in Silence - Go in Peace †

About Tonight's Service

The word *Maundy* is an English form of the Latin word *"mandatum,"* whence comes the word "mandate," and it reflects Jesus' new commandment to "love one another as I have loved you."Our worship this evening combines a celebration of the **Lord's Supper**, the last meal Jesus enjoyed with his disciples (and, in addition, probably a Passover meal), with the **Tenebrae** (which means "shadows"). The gradual extinguishing of light following each reading symbolizes the falling away of the disciples, and the extinguishing of Jesus' own life.

This evening's service is offered in worship and praise of God; we hope you find in the words, the music, and yes, the silences, the breadth and depth of Jesus' sacrifice. At the end of the service, one candle will be lit as a declaration that, even in the midst of darkness, the reality of Christ kindles light and life.

Our Holy Week vigil continues tomorrow here at the United Church at Noon; the story of Christ's passion will be read in its entirety from John's gospel, and the sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation. On Easter Day we will greet Christ's resurrection together with Sunrise Service at Deep River's Fountain Hill Cemetery at 6:15 am, and here in morning worship at 10:00 am.