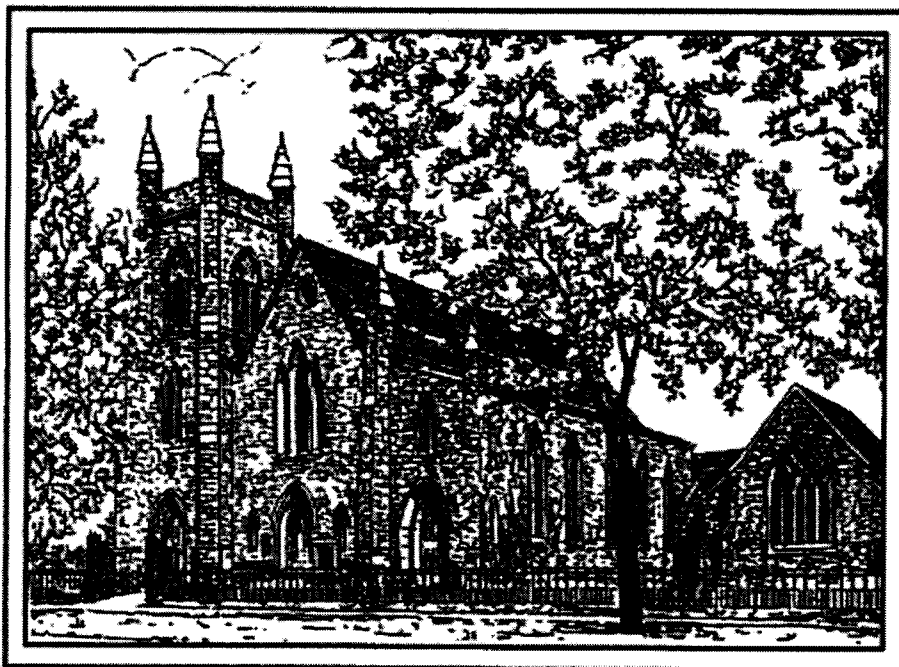


# First Congregational Church

*Founder of America's Oldest Fourth of July Celebration*

An Open and Affirming



Congregation of the United Church of Christ

300 High Street ♦ Bristol, Rhode Island

Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

March 24, 2024 ~ 10:00am

**Maundy Thursday**

**Ministers: The Members and Friends of First Congregational Church**

Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Our Music Director is Nikita Zabinski

Church Secretary: Ms. Barbara Watts

# First Congregational Church in Bristol

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024 ~ 7:00 pm

## Welcome and Announcements

### Ringing of the Bell

#### Prelude

*“Praeludium g-moll”*

*“When Jesus Wept”*

J.S. Bach

arr. Gerald Custer

Kyle Louviere, vocalist

### Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

### \*Call to Worship

One: The week has come to wrestle with the story.

**Many: The week has come to reveal the profane.**

One: The day has come to embody the sacred.

**Many: The day has come to reflect on love.**

One: The hour has come to remember the story.

**Many: The hour has come to bring peace to our souls. Amen.**

### \*Invocation

**Holy God, we enter the space where the story of Holy Week continues. As evening extinguishes daylight, we begin the task of remembering what unfolded. Our minds race as we place ourselves around the table with Christ. Our souls become quieter as the bread is broken and the cup is poured. May we recall tonight’s story as one that has drawn us together over time. May the readings and rituals bless our heavy hearts worn down by this world. Heal us with each word, each sense, each breath. Amen.**

### Confession

**Holy Deliverer, on this tonight, we reach the eve before Christ’s death. Although we focus on Jesus, we forget that we have been Judas, Peter, and the disciples. We have played a part in someone’s story of pain. Our words have pierced another’s hearts. We have betrayed our neighbor instead of filling another’s soul with love. Rather than living with the heaviness of guilt, allow us to create peace around us and within us. Invite us to share our repentance and to reconcile whenever possible. May we live into the mandate to love one another as you love us. Amen.**

## Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

\*Hymn

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* (vs. 1,2,3)

NCH#345

### The New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### The Gospel Lesson John 13:1-17, 31b-35 The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to his God. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper, Jesus, knowing that God had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered,

"You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And, you are clean, although not all of you."

Because he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. Because I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you,

servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now, the Son of God has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you 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.”

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### **Special Music**

*“Otherside”*

Dave Rosser/Beyoncé

Helena Widmann and Kyle Louviere, vocalists

Alexi Shabalin, violinist

### **Message**

*“The New Commandment”*

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

### **The Pastoral Prayer**

### **Our Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Prayer Response**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord,  
Hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Incline Thine ear to us,  
And grant us Thy peace.**

### **Offertory Invitation**

### **The Offertory**

*“If I Had Been”*

Ruth Elaine Schrader

### **\*The Doxology PH #515**

Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Divine Basin of Blessings, even when the workings of the world are harsh, you are present. Even when shame rattles our souls, you pour goodness and mercy upon us. May we live into the command of Christ—to love one another as Christ loved us. Through our actions, our faith comes alive and our neighbors experience Divine love in new ways. Amen.**

### **\*Hymn**

*“Christ at Table There with Friends”*

NCH#227

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Invitation to Communion**

One: God loves you!

**Many: And the Holy One loves you.**

One: Open wide your souls.

**Many: In our vulnerability, we reveal our most authentic selves to God.**

One: May we embrace the mandate of Christ.

**Many: In Christ’s words we celebrate our love for one another.**

## **Words of Institution**

## **Sharing the Elements**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Holy One, with gratitude, we celebrate this space and time with each other. With thanksgiving, we remember Jesus the Christ, the one who shared light with the world, even when the shadows lengthened. Give us strength to reenter this world sharing love and grace to our neighbors around us. Amen.**

### **\*Hymn**

*“What Wondrous Love Is This”*

NCH#223

### **Special Music**

*“City Called Heaven”*

Josephine Poelinitz  
Kyle Louviere, vocalist

## The Service of Tenebrae

*Tenebrae is the Latin term for "shadows." It is an ancient ritual that chronicles the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus the Christ. As the worship space grows increasingly darker, the shadow of the cross falls upon each of us. The sanctuary is cast into darkness as the readers assemble. The twelve candles on the table represent Jesus's twelve disciples; the large candle is the Christ candle.*

First Reading, The Lord's Supper (Mark 14:22-25)	Karen Satti
Second Reading, Shadow of Betrayal (Matthew 26:20-25)	Grace Steere
Third Reading, Shadow of Desertion (Matthew 26:31-35)	Chuck Ramos
Fourth Reading, Agony of the Soul (Luke 22:39-44)	Karen Harcourt
Fifth Reading, Unshared Vigil (Mark 14:32-41)	Amy Halt
Sixth Reading, The Hour Has Come (John 17:1-6)	Sally Evans
Seventh Reading, That All May Be One (John 17:15-22)	Lynne Ramos
Eighth Reading, The Arrest (John 18:1-5)	Jen Johnson
Ninth Reading, The Denial (Mark 14:66-72)	Charlotte Burnham
Tenth Reading, Jesus Before Pilot (John 18:33-38a)	Steve Brosnihan
Eleventh Reading, The People's Choice (John 8:38b-40;19;12-16)	Caroline Jacobus
Twelfth Reading, Shadow of the Cross (Mark 15:16-20)	Bob Evans
Final Reading, The Word was God (John 1:14; 10;12;3:19)	The Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Vocal Solo "Were You There?"

Vocal Soloist Kyle Louviere

Please depart from the service in silence

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~

~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

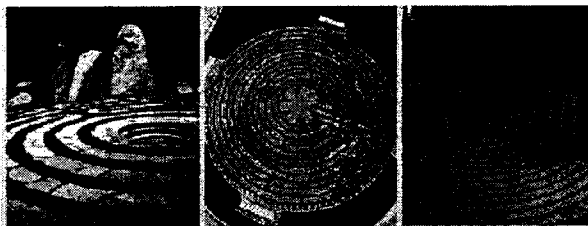
## First Congregational Church

281 High Street

Bristol, RI 02809

401-253-7288

# Good Friday March 29, 2024



### Come and Walk the Labyrinth

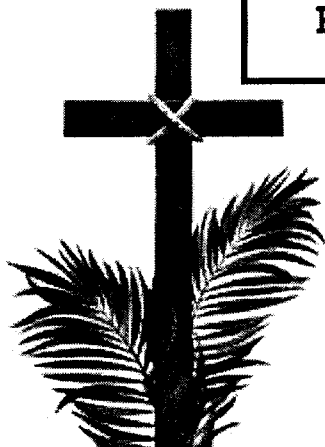
*Walking the labyrinth is an active prayer form of meditation that can give insight and guidance for life's challenges, help solve a problem, stir creativity, bring solace to those in sorrow, peace to the chaos of life, and provide an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for our blessings. Come join us on a labyrinth walk.*

Come on your Lunch Hour

Noon - 3:00pm

And /or have a quiet

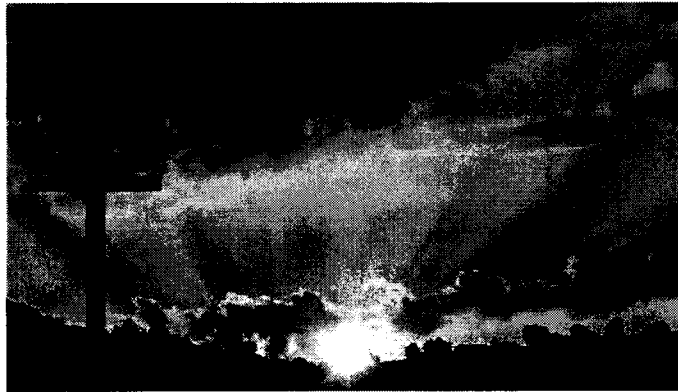
Reflection in the Sanctuary



***Easter Sunrise Services***

**at Colt State Park**

**Sunday March 31, 2024, 6:30am**



*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

*~ Our celebrant today is the Reverend Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~*

***Easter 10:00am Worship Service  
at First Congregational Church  
300 High Street, Bristol, RI***