

First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus



MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 17, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm

Prelude

“Prelude in E Minor”

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Awake, Alone in Gethsemane”

Julie I. Myers
First Congregational Church Choir

*Twilight in Gethsemane, shadows shroud the olive trees.
Twisting branches, darkening paths, on the mountain, night falls fast.
Jesus with treasured friends, comes to pray ‘mid changing winds.
Good and gladsome memories fade with the press of treachery.
Awake, alone in Gethsemane.*

*His friends are heavy eyed. Resting from sorrow, they lie.
Strong pleas he makes. Not one stays awake.
See, now an angel gives Him aid, strength for bearing all the world’s shame.
Anguished, His prayers ascend to God, while from His brow comes sweat like blood.
“Father, let this cup pass by!” “Not My will, but Yours,” He cries
Willing to drink its bitterness, rising to face the traitor’s kiss.
Awake, alone in Gethsemane.*

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship and Invocation**

One: The entry into Jerusalem—

Many: a time of great celebration!

One: The entry into the upper room—

Many: a time of great togetherness!

One: The entry into the judgment hall—

Many: a time of great humiliation.

One: The entry onto Golgotha—

Many: a time of great pain and death.

One: Our Lenten journey has brought us to this place.

Many: To profess our faith.

One: To hear Jesus's story.

Many: To remember his life and his death.

One; Called by God as family in Christ's love,

Many: we gather and worship God. Amen.

***Invocation**

Holy God, we are caught in the tension of light and shadow, death and resurrection. You spoke the world into being. You illuminated the universe by your very speech. Then you filled the void with life. Indeed, you have filled the void of darkness and death, the empty promises of the abyss, with new life and new creation. We look to you in the space between the world and your realm, longing for the fulfillment of your word in the work of the Holy Spirit and the reign of Chris. Amen.

***Hymn**

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

NCH #226

Message

"Through Jesus We Witness Humanity's Depths"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

First Reading, The Lord's Supper

(Mark 14:22-25)

Grace Steere

Anthem

"The Garden Call"

Joseph M. Martin/Brad Nix
First Congregational Church Choir
Alexey Shabalin, violin

*Come to dark Gethsemane, hear the Savior weeping.
Underneath an olive tree, while His friends are sleeping.
On the wind, there comes a cry. Amid the palms, a midnight sigh.
The garden is calling to you.*

*On His knees, Christ prays alone. Calling out in anguish.
The air is still and cold as stone, His heart begins to languish.
Crying out with wounded song, He knows His time will not be long.
The garden is calling to you.*

*Go from dark Gethsemane, walk the path of sorrows.
In the distance Calvary. A cross will rise tomorrow.
Come and learn the way of grace, beyond the cross are songs of praise.
The garden is calling to you.*

Second Reading, Shadow of Betrayal (Matthew 26:20-25)

Shawn Bailey

Third Reading, Shadow of Desertion (Matthew 26:31-35)

Jen Johnson

Vocal Solo

"Hope There's Someone"

Antony and the Johnsons

Prayer

Fourth Reading, Agony of the Soul (Luke 22:39-44) Chuck Ramos

Fifth Reading, Unshared Vigil (Mark 14:32-41) Ann Roussel

***Hymn** “*What Wondrous Love Is This*” NCH #223

Sixth Reading, The Hour Has Come (John 17:1-6) Susan Morettini

Seventh Reading, That All May Be One (John 17:15-22) Lynne Ramos

Prayer

Anthem “*My Song Is Love Unknown*” Larry Shackley/Samuel Crossman
First Congregational Church Choir
Alexey Shabalin, violin

*My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake, my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
He came from His blest throne salvation to bestow;
We turned our eyes, and none the longed for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend!*

*Sometimes they strew His way and His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the way hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.
Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.
My song is love unknown.*

Eighth Reading, The Arrest (John 18:1-5) Amy Halt

Ninth Reading, The Denial (Mark 14:66-72) Susan Donovan

Responsive Prayer

One: some shout hosanna
Many: some shout crucify
One: some shout Jesus
Many: some shout Barabbas
One: some wave palms
Many: some shake their fists
One: today we choose
Many: some break bread
One: some break silence
Many: some proclaim Jesus
One: some deny Jesus
Many: some carry the cross
One: some run from the cross
Many: today we choose
One: some are angry

Many: some rejoice
 One: some anoint with costly perfume
Many: some complain at the waste
 One: some like the light
Many: some prefer the shadows
 One: today we choose
Many: some weep
 One: some conspire
Many: some follow
 One: some hide
Many: some believe
 One: some betray
Many: today we choose
 One: to shout for life
Many: to follow the cross
 One: to break bread
Many: to hold belief
 One: to trust love
Many: and tell the world that we choose to follow Jesus. Amen.

Tenth Reading, Jesus Before Pilot (John 18:33-38a) Karen Satti

Eleventh Reading, The People's Choice (John 8:38b-40, 19:12-16) Brady Halt Harcourt

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.

Twelfth Reading, Shadow of the Cross (Mark 15:16-20) Bob Evans

Instrumental Solo "Vocalise" Op. 34, No. 14 Sergei Rachmaninoff
 Alexey Shabalin, violin

Final Reading, The Word was God (John 1:14, 10, 12, 3:19) Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

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!

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Vocal Solo "He Never Said a Mumblin' Word"

Please depart from the service in silence

~ Our celebrant tonight is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup
~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ The First Congregational Church Choir ~
~ Alexey Shabalin, Violin ~

Tenebrae is the Latin term for “shadows.” It is an ancient ritual that chronicles the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. 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 and speak. The twelve candles on the table represent Jesus’s twelve disciples; the large candle is the Christ candle.



What’s on the Church Calendar

April 18, 2025	Friday Labyrinth Walk Circle Noon to 3pm (DeWolf Room)
April 20, 2025	Sunday Worship: Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am (Mt Hope Boat Ramp, 118 Annawamscutt Dr. Bristol)
	Sunday Worship: Easter Sunday Service 10am

Please visit our website for more information about the Church
and its events: **fccbristol.org**



“Invitation to Share Time, Talent, and Treasure”

When you give to First Congregational Church, you make possible our ministries that serve all God’s people. Your gifts share the love of Jesus all year long. The act of giving is our personal expression of worship and also keeps our church financially healthy. Stewardship is not payment for services rendered. It is an act of faith and devotion to God. You may go to the following link to give now:
<https://fccbristol.org/support-us/>.



Church Office Hours are Tuesday – Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Office e-mail address: office@FCCBristol.org

Pastoral Office Hours Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 1pm
You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Nancy.
Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail office@FCCbristol.org

NCH = *New Century Hymnal (black hymnal)* and PH = *Pilgrim Hymnal (red hymnal)*

Sources and Credits: Hymn tune names - as well as composers of the music and authors of the text - are listed in the hymnals with each hymn. CCLI License #1958911 and One License.Net #A-728124.

Sources: Prayers from this service were written by or adapted from the following: Thom Shuman, Prayers for Maundy Thursday Year B, Maundy Thursday – March 28 - United Church of Christ (ucc.org); Maundy Thursday Service from the First Baptist Church, Rome, Georgia (2008), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Georgia, <http://www.cbfga.org/>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Maundy Thursday; Thomas Turner, <http://everydayliturgy.com/>, re:Worship: Prayer: Between Light and Shadow; John W. Vest, <http://johnvest.com/>, re:Worship: Pastoral Prayer for Holy Week; Steve Garnaas-Holmes, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>, re:Worship: Passion Week Prayer: Surely Not I?: John Birch, <http://www.faithandworship.com/>, re:Worship: Prayer: The Love of Jesus; Roddy Hamilton, Listening to the Stones. <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/>, re:Worship: Affirmation of Faith for Holy Week; Nolan Williams, Jr., The African American Lectionary, re:Worship: Holy Thursday Prayer Litany.

First Congregational Church

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Good Friday April 18, 2025

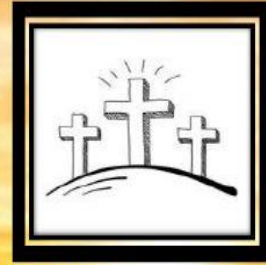


Come and Walk the Labyrinth

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.

Hours are
Noon - 3:00pm

2-2025



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

At 6:30am

At a NEW location

MT. HOPE BOAT RAMP

118 ANNAWAMSCUTT DRIVE
Bristol, RI 02809

Officiating will be The Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Soukup
of the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in BRISTOL.

Sorry you will need to bring your own chairs

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