



UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF ANOKA

Welcome to Worship

April 2, 2026

Maundy (Holy) Thursday

2026-27 Worship Theme: Building Community

Lenten Theme: *The Work of Imagination*

***Please stand as you are able.**

PRELUDE

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted by Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)

WELCOME

Pastor Karen Evenson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Everyone who thirsts, come to the water. Everyone who hungers, come to the feast.

Everyone who seeks, come and find.

All: Jesus is the host, and we are the guests.

One: In the upper room, we gather. At the table, we eat. Near the garden, we pray.

All: Jesus is the Savior, and we are the disciples.

One: On this night where love meets fear, mercy meets betrayal, service meets resistance,
we remember.

All: Jesus holds us in grace, and we follow him in love.

(Silence)

The Preparation of the Passover

(Luke 22:7-13 NRSVUE)

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us so that we may eat it." ⁹ They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰ "Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³ So they went and found everything as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

PRAYER

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ, you give us a model for love made known through acts of humble service. In the sharing of bread and cup, let us receive the living Christ and envision your saving feast of welcome for all who are hungry. As we enter into these holy days, guard our hearts and minds so we may ponder the mysteries of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our servant Lord. Amen.

HYMN*What Wondrous Love is This (UMH 292, v 1)***PRAYER**

God of love, Jesus offered himself to the disciples through ordinary things: bread and cup and table, water and washing and praying. May we, too, meet Jesus in our gathering, in ordinary acts of song and prayer, word and fellowship, contemplation and communion. Awaken our hearts again to the deep loving kindness demonstrated to us in the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN*What Wondrous Love is This (UMH 292, v 2)***The Institution of the Lord's Supper****(Luke 22:14-23 NRSVUE)**

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²² For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

HOLY COMMUNION***COMMUNION HYMN***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (UMH 626, v 1-2)***BREAKING OF THE BREAD & SHARING OF THE CUP****OFFERING LOVE AND MERCY**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded arr. by Jason Krug
Jubilee Bells

If you would like to make a financial donation during this service, you may:

- *Place it in one of the baskets as you come for Communion, or as you leave.*
- *Scan the QR code on the back of this bulletin.*
- *Go to www.anokaumc.org/ways-to-give/.*

PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. We pray this prayer of Jesus as we remember the gifts you give...

THE LORD'S PRAYER**HYMN***What Wondrous Love is This (UMH 292, v 1-2)***Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet****(John 13:3-17 NRSVUE)**

³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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 only my feet 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, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, 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. For 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.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love is This (UMH 292, v 3)

REFLECTION

"Risky Mercy"

Pastor Karen Evenson

The New Commandment

(John 13:31-35 NRSVUE)

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man 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."

LITURGY for MERCY, BLESSING, AND LOVE

One: Jesus, who could have commanded the heavens to bow, instead knelt down, towel in hand, to wash his friends' dirty, tired, and worn feet. He imagined a new way. A way where we all serve one another. We bend to serve in acts of mercy... that sometimes feel risky.

All: We come following in the footsteps of imagination, ready and willing to serve.

One: When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he washed the barriers between us. The act wasn't to value cleanliness; but instead to make space for connection and community.

All: We come with open hands and hearts, ready to love and be loved.

One: As we wash and wash others, we are reminded that to love like Jesus is to care for the well-being and nourishment of all.

All: We wash with the hope that our lives reflect the servanthood of Jesus, bringing dignity and worth to everyone we encounter. Amen.

The altar is now covered in a black cloth as we remember what came between the Last Supper and the Resurrection. We ask that you go quietly to one or more stations before you leave, and out of respect for the scene that has been set, please use quiet voices on your way out of the building.

***HYMN**

Were You There (UMH 288, v 1 & 5)

***BENEDICTION**

Beloved children of God, our time in the wilderness is beginning to wane. As we approach the time when we remember Christ's death, may you find comfort in the promise of the bread and the cup, shared among us today. May you find hope in the offering of mercy, blessings, and love with one another, and all we meet. Go in peace, to give and receive these today. Amen.

STATIONS OF MERCY, BLESSING, AND LOVE

POSTLUDE

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands harmonized by J.S. Bach

On Good Friday, you're invited to stay with Jesus through it all, in prayer either on your own or by spending time during the Prayer Vigil here in the sanctuary tomorrow between 7am - 7pm.

Liturgy throughout the season of Lent is being used by permission as part of the series "The Work of Imagination" produced by 2026 Illustrated Ministry, LLC.

April 3, 2025: Good (Holy) Friday Prayer Vigil

7am to 7pm

(Walk-in and spend time with Jesus in the sanctuary during any hour of the day)

April 5, 2025: Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18

"Fulfilling Imagination!"

Message by Pastor Karen Evenson

Worship Hospitality Team

Communion Servers ~ Adam Breiner, Elaine and Tom Collison, and Sue Buckland

Communion Steward ~ Jim January

Greeters ~ June Fairley and Phyllis Rither

Liturgist ~ Bill Ekstrum

Nursery Supervisor ~ Amanda Harris

Organist ~ Marilyn Tice

Pastor ~ Rev. Karen Evenson

Scripture Readers ~ Adam Breiner, Bill Ekstrum, Margaret Ekstrum, and Scott Evenson

Snow Removal and Salting ~ Craig Tanner

Ushers ~ Joyce Buffington and Mark Worst

Welcome Center ~ Bev and Dean Summerbell

Worship Tech ~ Dallas Berry

WORSHIP NOTES:

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