

Ocean Heights

Presbyterian Church



A More Light Presbyterian Congregation joyfully welcoming people from all walks of life, acknowledging the differences of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disabilities. We celebrate all people as children of God.

You are invited to rise in body and/or spirit whenever you read an * symbol.

Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026

GOD CALLS US TO GATHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Grave e Cantabile

by F. J. Haydn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP(*)

Liturgist: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

All: Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

Liturgist: Beloved people of God: This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever.

All: This is the day when Christ, our Teacher and Savior, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another.

Liturgist: This is the day when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

HYMN 215(*)

What Wondrous Love Is This

American Folk Hymn

JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Call to Worship: As we gather in worship this evening, we come to honor Christ's earthly ministry and the work he did on behalf of all humanity. And the inspiration he provides for us to do the same today. All of the liturgy from today's service is from the PCUSA's Book of Common Worship, digital version.

Hymn 215: With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

Hymn 221: This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.

Hymn 799: This setting of stanzas from a metrical psalm draws on an African American singing tradition marked by a slow pace and individual improvisation. Vestiges of that practice appear here in the pattern of extended syllables occurring at regular intervals without regard to meaning.

Pastor: May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN 221(*)

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Latin

GOD'S WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Exodus 12:1-14

YHWH said to Aaron and Moses in the land of Egypt, "This month will be the first of all months to you. You will count it as the first month of the year. Say this to the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month, every family in Israel will take an animal from the flock, one for each household. If your household is too small for a whole animal, join with your next-door neighbor, and divide the animal as the number of persons requires. The animal must be a year-old male without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You must keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, then the whole community of Israel is to slaughter it at sunset. Some of the blood must then be taken and applied to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house where the animal is eaten.

"That night you will eat the roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, but roasted over the fire—the head, feet and entrails. You must not leave any over until morning. Whatever is left in morning you are to burn. This is how you are to eat it: with your belt buckled, your sandals on your feet, and a staff in your hand; you will eat it in haste. It is the Passover of YHWH. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night and strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I will execute this judgment on all the gods of Egypt: I am YHWH. The blood will mark the houses where you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no harm will come to you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day will be for you a memorial day, and you must celebrate it as a feast to YHWH. All generations are to observe it forever as a feast day."

HYMN 799

Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

by Isaac Watts

READING OF SCRIPTURE(Responsive)

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Liturgist: What I have passed on to you, I received from Christ—that on the night he was betrayed,

People: **our Savior Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, "This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Liturgist: In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and said, "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me."

People: **For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim Jesus' death until Christ comes.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was. The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus—knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God—rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Rabbi, you're

not going to wash my feet, are you?" Jesus answered, "You don't realize what I am doing right now, but later you'll understand." Peter replied, "You'll never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Then, Rabbi, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus said, "Any who have taken a bath are clean all over and only need to wash their feet—and you're clean, though not every one of you." For Jesus knew who was to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me "Teacher," and "Sovereign"—and rightly, for so I am. If I, then—your Teacher and Sovereign—have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. The truth of the matter is, no subordinate is greater than the superior; no messenger outranks the sender. Once you know all these things, you'll be blessed if you put them into practice."

Once Judas left, Jesus said, "Now is the Chosen One glorified and God is glorified as well. If God has been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. My little children, I won't be with you much longer. You'll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you: where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

HOMILY

Reverend Judy Fiocco

FOOT/HAND WASHING

You are invited to take part in the washing of feet or hands, a sign of Christ's love and care for us and of the humble service to which we are called as Christ's disciples.

HYMN #204(*)

Stay With Me

Taizé Community

Sang During the Foot/Hand Washing, Repeated As Many Times As Necessary

OFFERTORY

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs

Isaiah 53:4-5

Ronald A. Nelson

GATHERED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Our Savior be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to our Gracious God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy ... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Christ. Have mercy on us, O God.

PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Loving God in heaven, hallowed be your Name.

Your kindom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the dominion, the power, and glory are yours, now and forever,

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Foot/Hand Washing: Come forward, as you feel comfortable, and the pastors will wash your hands or your feet. Please sit in the chair placed in front of the communion table. If you want your hands washed, please extend your hands. If you'd like your feet washed, please remove your shoes and sock

Hymn 204: This chant from Taizé intended for repeated singing is based on Jesus' request to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:38/Mark 14:34), a simple request they did not fulfill. When singing these words we need to hear in them an ongoing call to be alert and faithful.

Offering: All offerings will be given to Sister Jean's Kitchen.

Prayer of Jesus: This paraphrase of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples was written anonymously.

Communion:

Communion is taken by modified intinction.

To partake in communion, you will walk down the center aisle toward the chancel. You will receive the bread and the cup in front of the communion table. You may eat the bread and drink the juice whenever you are ready. All the bread is gluten free. All the cups are filled with grape juice.

Departure: *Please depart in silence and reflection. The Good Friday service will take place at Absecon Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM tomorrow evening.*

PARTAKING IN COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (UNISON)

God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared in the body and blood of our Savior.

As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world;

through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

DEPARTING IN SILENCE



<p>Session</p> <p><u>Class of 2026</u> Brenda Brown Lorene Gilman David Prescott</p> <p><u>Class of 2027</u> Diane Falk Jim Laymon Carol Petters</p> <p><u>Class of 2028</u> Sue Castellano Walter East Mika McNair</p>	<p>Pastor – Rev. Katherine Scott-Kirschner Clerk of Session – Lorene Gilman President of the Board of Trustees – Diane Falk Director of Music – Bob Helsabeck Pianist – Heera Ghorashi Office Coordinator – Kay DeAngelo</p> <p>2116 Ocean Heights Avenue Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-1:00 609.788.0271 office@ohchurch.org</p> 
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