



Called to More Holy Thursday Traditional Service

Gathering

On this night we come together to remember that last night before Jesus gave up himself for us. As we read scriptures, pray and gather at the table, we are reminded that like that night so long-ago Jesus longs to be here with us. The table is set, the feast will begin soon, welcome to our Holy Thursday celebration.

Greeting

We come tonight to hear the stories of Passover and the Last Supper.

We recall the stories of God's loving care.

We come tonight to remember.

We remember the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup.

We come tonight to be reminded.

We are reminded of Jesus' sacrificial love.

Confession

Holy and merciful God, we come tonight to repent for the times that we have failed to show love. For the missed opportunities as well as the times we have done harm. We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned and fallen short. Accept our repentance and forgive us we pray. Amen.

Scripture

OT: Exodus 12:1-13

Gospel: Luke 22:7-23

(At this time you can offer a short story on communion. You can invite the congregation to quietly consider a few questions or have a time of prayer. Questions for thought: Imagine that scene with Jesus' disciples as he changes the meaning of the Passover meal. Put yourself in the shoes of a disciple at the table. What would you be thinking and feeling as Jesus infuses new meaning treasured tradition?)

Communion

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

On this night we come to remember just as Jesus' followers did so long ago. We come to be reminded that our God is a God of protection. That our God is faithful. That our God will make a way, even when it seems impossible.

On this night we come to remember that night that Jesus would offer himself as the Passover lamb. That a new covenant was formed, a promise of love that even death could not steal away.

On that night Jesus gathered together family and friends for one last meal before he humbly gave himself over to suffer and die.

On that night Jesus would eat a feast with those who would later betray, deny and abandon him. And instead of malice or anger he offers them the gift of forgiveness and grace.



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



CALLED TO MORE

A Lenten Series on Wrestling with Sin

Taking bread, he gave thanks to God, broke the bread, and gave it to those present saying:
“This is my body broken for you. Whenever you eat this bread, remember me.”

At the end of the meal, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, and said:
“This is my blood shed to ratify God’s covenant of grace with you and with many for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink of this, remember me.”

Tonight, we offer our praises and thanksgiving for this gift of love. Tonight, we eat this meal to connect with God, with each other and so that we may be strengthened to serve the world in the name of Jesus. Tonight, we are reminded that this meal is not merely a remembrance and proclaim this as a holy mystery.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your spirit on these gifts of bread and cup so that we that receive them may be one with Christ, one with each other and one with the world until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Now let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught, Our Father...

Holy Communion

Because the table at which we gather belongs to the Lord, all are invited to come forward and join in this communion meal, as a response to the love of Christ. Anyone needing assistance please tell the pastor and we will bring communion to your place.

Sending

Tonight, you have been fed, you have been offered the gifts of love and grace. Now go out and share as you have received to all the world, so they too may know the love of God. Amen.



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY