

# *Straight from the "Hart"*

Worship Service from April 4, 2021

Easter 8:30 and 10:00 am



Sharing the journey  
to know, love, and serve God



*Thank you to the worship team members who prepared the platform for Easter.*

## **Flowers that were given in memory of**

Larry Schleh

by Pat Schleh

Sister Clement Stine (SSJ)

by Karen Nowak

Charles & Janice Kirkpatrick, Ed & Doris Ker

by Charles & Debbie Kirkpatrick

Parents of Bruce & Pat

by Bruce & Pat Harton

Sylvia Williams

by Pastor Chuck Williams family

Bill Martin, Philip Martin, parents of Bill & Jan Martin

by Jan Martin

Bob & Avon Kahl, Ed & Mary Matheson,

Glenn & Thelma Sweeney

by Ann Martin

## **Flowers that were given in honor of**

Service Men and Women and Their Families

by Pat Schleh

The Harton Children & Grandchildren

by Bruce and Pat Harton

## **Flowers that were given in for God's Glory**

by Nile Remsing

by Sheila and Doug Daniel

by Donna Allmond

**Welcome** He is risen. **He is risen indeed!**

Let's pray. Lord, we give you thanks for the people we have named -- and the enduring impact and influence they have had on the people who gave in honor or memory of their name. Lord, you clothe the fields with such beauty -- as fleeting as they may -- as a testimony to who you are and how much you care about all creation, about each of us. We know there are others who would have liked to give to celebrate the lives that have impacted them, but they are connected to other places, or other circumstances keep them from doing so. In this brief time of silence, we give opportunity for all of us to memorialize and/or honor those who we name in our hearts.

Silence. **Amen.**

**Music Intro** Friday night we left in silence knowing that Jesus was sealed away in a tomb and a Roman guard posted. Let's sing what happens next.

**Music** *Up From the Grave He Arose***Call to Worship** (R1 - Reader 1, R2 - Reader 2)

R1: All through this series, crowds had gathered around Jesus to hear his teaching and experience his good deeds. They gathered en masse because he touched the "untouchables", mixed with folks "outside and below" the "acceptable" status, raising up the worth and faith of the "rejected" and "nobodies."

R2: His popularity in the shifting of "worth" challenged societal norms and the people who defined those norms. Those leaders moved in and among the crowds seeking to find something in Jesus words and actions that reveal he was an imposter and would snare him in a scandalous controversy. Jesus answered with truth and faith, often leaving the naysayers speechless -- but not powerless.

R1: We heard Friday night how easily social systems sacrifice kindness, love, and compassion in the name of preserving itself. And how ruthless it is in sacrificing anyone who threatens the established status quo. They sought to nail Jesus to the wall, and failing that, they nailed him to the cross, and out lent kit nails were to take the prominent place in our displays. With them doing their work, the darkness descended and deepened on the world.

R2: It looked like all was lost, that the system had won, and all who were crushed by it would return to their crushed status and fade from significance and return to "nobodies". But then there are these words from Paul -- "We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because

God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture... Abraham... dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. (From Romans 4:17-18 (MSG))

R1: He has saved us and called us to a holy life -- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:9-10 (NIV)) The light which the world tried to extinguish cannot be put out. [Christ candle is lit] His flame continues to proclaim the transforming power of God.



R2: As the light returns to our view, we give thanks that God's gracious love has been, is now, and will ever be -- at work within each of us today and every day. For one final time on our journey that is now complete, bring yourself to that quiet place. Slow your breathing, prepare for silence. And celebrate within the depth of your soul -- new life, new joy, new possibilities -- because Christ is risen, alive and living among us right here and all over the world.

**SILENCE, then Music (v 1) *Because He Lives***

**Special Reading** (R1 = Reader 1, R2 = Reader 2, **C** = Congregation)

R1: Let's tell the story again. After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

**C: There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven**

R2: and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

**C: The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.**

R2: The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

R1: So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy,

**C: and [they] ran to tell his disciples.**

R2: Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

R1: While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

R2: Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

**C: when they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.**

R2: Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

**ALL: AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.”**

Let’s sing this resurrection truth.

**Music (vv 1,2,3,5) *Christ the Lord is Risen Today ...***



**Theme** Those of you read the upper room daily devotional may have noticed a devotional about a week and half ago about a rest stop that was ordinary on the outside but beautifully celebrating the state of Missouri within. You may not be able to see clearly in



the picture, but it shows only one section of one wall. When you get close up you see that the art is formed by the careful placement of colorful shards put together in a beautiful mosaic. The upshot of the mosaic for that author was that when we trust to give the broken pieces of our lives to God he can create a beautiful story, and weave it together with others to create a grand story of his restorative love. (Upper Room 3/23/21).

Someone pointed out with interest that in John 20, the unrecognized resurrected Christ seemed to be a recurring theme. The empty tomb only gave clues -- but they still didn't yet understand. Mary thinks Jesus is the gardener until Jesus calls her by name. The disciples don't recognize him until he shows them the scars in his hands and side. Thomas wasn't there that first time and said he would not believe until he touched those scars himself.

Little Bee is a Nigerian girl in a book by John Cleave. She says, "I ask you right here please to agree with me that a scar is never ugly. That is what the scar makers want us to think. But you and I, we must make an agreement to defy them. We must see all scars as beauty. Okay? This will be our secret. Because take it from me, a scar does not form [where there is no life]. A scar means, I survived."

All things are created and destined to be broken someday. All of us develop scars throughout our lives. Kintsugi embraces the imperfect and says that scars they should never be hidden. Our imperfections can be the birth of something new. Kintsugi is the art of restoring



broken pieces (usually pottery) with a natural lacquer made from the sap of a particular Japanese tree, which they say is like the blood of the tree, the life of the tree. Once a cup of it has been extracted, the tree is cut off ending the tree's life.

They give thanks for nature and the natural order. Once that natural glue dries and hardens, then the cracks are artistically covered with gold. Rather than covering up the flaws, it beautifies the breakage as an important part of the object's history. The restored object becomes a symbol of its fragility, but also of its strength and beauty. We live in a use up and dispose society, Jesus lived in an era when even people were used and discarded.

Many see Kintsugi as a metaphor for life where nothing is truly broken, but when the healing art is applied to the vessel, there is a new lease on life. It teaches resilience and helps us put together fragments of ourselves. Our broken parts can be mended, so we should never give up on life. Embrace your history, your imperfections, even the big accidents, because by it you can be reborn. Joni Hotz wrote that even a heart that seems shattered and broken beyond all hope and recognition can be healed, with the end result being a creation that is unique in all the universe...

A mosaic, the story of a doubter, and pottery -- 3 images that imagine for us what God can do for our lives. We've been talking about them all through Lent with our shards of sand glass. Let's sing *Something Beautiful*.

### **Music # 394 (1x) *Something Beautiful***

And even as he creates the beauty in our lives, he calls us to offer others a beauty that is unique to them...

### **Bible Reading      Matthew 22:34, Matthew 9:35-10:8**

We heard Jesus give the Great Commission -- to go into all the world making disciples... He calls us to do that because of his great love for all, and he wants us -- commands us -- to share his love. Our series throughout Lent has focused on the healing stories of Matthew 8-9, so after again hearing the command to love, we will pick up those at story and focus on a smaller, narrower commission -- when Jesus first sends his disciples to test the waters -- to do what Jesus did. First the command,

One of [the Pharisees], and expert in the law, tested him with a question. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

And then the "small commission"

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness... These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions... As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

### **Message     *The First Commandment, The First Commission***

A number of years ago there were reports of a mysterious unknown force migrating down from Canada toward Seattle. This force was causing pits to appear in car windshields. The pitting hit Seattle proper and thousands of people reported pits appearing in their previously unblemished windshields. In a few days the "force" moved on to the next community.

Social scientists concluded that this was a mass delusion created by rumor and gossip. People became so convinced that their windshields were going to be attacked that they began looking at their car windows, instead of through them, and they naturally discovered pits -- pits that had been there all along. The opposite happened to me a few weeks ago. A truck in front of me kicked up a stone and put a chip in my windshield. And it wasn't until I remembered this story that I recalled it -- I had forgotten all about it and haven't noticed it since.

Someone said "Maturity comes when you start looking through glass, not at it."

A family was sightseeing in New York City and took the subway. They happened to be in the first car and the two boys peered in the mirror, that one way glass, that separated them from the engineer's cabin and on to the tunnel ahead. After a few moments, the older boy told his brother that he could see the tracks up ahead in the tunnel though that two-way mirror.

The 7-year-old could see nothing but his reflection. "Where?" I don't see anything." His mother spoke up. "Spencer, look beyond yourself and you'll see it." He did, and he did see it, just as we do when we look beyond ourselves: We catch

a glimpse of the track ahead and the world around us. We need to see past ourselves...

In the Bible reading you just heard, Jesus didn't just see himself and his role among the people, he didn't just see the surface of the people -- he looked past and saw what was in the heart of these people, and he saw that they were "harassed and helpless" literally "flayed or skinned" and "cast down or prostrated (flat on the ground)." He saw through the tough, rough, self-sufficient fronts to see a people who are wounded to the point of having fallen over. He saw them as "sheep in desperate need of a shepherd who could direct them into a new path of life."

Sheep without a shepherd make a lot of obnoxious noises, crying out, lashing out, angry and scared, unhappy, confused and anxious, empty and hungry. They're raw and sensitive. They need some good news. They need someone to lead them to green pastures and still waters.

When Jesus saw the heart of these people, we get close to original meaning of the word when we say he was moved to the core of his physical being. He sees their plight and it makes him sick to his stomach. That is what compassion means -- you feel it down in your gut and makes you want to do something about.

We have two primary reactions when we see people who make us "sick to the stomach".

One reaction, put to its extreme form, is illustrated in this story: A Russian nobleman visited British poet Alfred Tennyson. This man went out on a hunting expedition and returned with the proud news that he had shot two peasants. Tennyson politely corrected, "You mean two 'pheasants'." The Russian noble emphatically replied, "No! two peasants. They were insolent, so I shot them."

When people's lives, on the surface, are abrasive and unappealing, I don't suspect we shoot them, I hope we don't. But do we perhaps blind ourselves to their true inner plight? Do we cut ourselves off from them? Do we judge them -- even before we can begin to try and see what we think might be in their heart? Looking beyond ourselves to them.

The other way we can react is the reaction of Jesus, who allows their pain to become his pain, he feels compelled by compassion to take extreme action to alleviate their hurt -- this is why we have Good Friday.

Suddenly the metaphor changes from shepherd-less sheep to an abundant need of crop workers. Often, we think the harvest is the people in need and we go out and bring them to God's kingdom; and that is a legitimate analogy. But the context



here in Matthew's text makes it likely that the harvest is the arrival and growth of the blessings of God's kingdom that Jesus is ushering into the world. His preaching, his teaching, his healings, his miracles, his power, his love and his hope that are so desperately needed by the people. All of this grace and power are abundant and overflowing -- and are ripe for the picking and spreading; and Jesus commissions the disciples (gives them the authority to act in his name) to distribute these desperately needed life giving teachings and healings and miracles.

But it's like the old saying -- hunger isn't a food shortage problem as much as it is a food distribution problem. There's nothing worse than to have a crop rot in the fields because there are too few people to collect and deliver it. There is nothing worse than to have God's gracious and glorious overflowing presence and power in the world, and for people to go spiritually hungry because there are too few people are delivering God's gracious bounty.

So Jesus urges his disciples to pray for additional laborers to help the disciples as he authorizes them to deliver God's wholeness to our world. God has chosen us as his instruments.

Soon after World War II, a group of German students wanted to express Christian love to those who had lost so much. They volunteered to go to London to help rebuild an English cathedral that had been severely damaged by German bombs. As the work progressed, they became concerned about a large statue of Jesus, whose arms were outstretched and beneath which was the written inscription from Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

The hands of the statue had been completely pulverized, destroyed; and in spite of their best efforts, no one could successfully restore an acceptable version of those hands. Finally, after much discussion, they decided to let the hands of Jesus remain missing and they changed the inscription to read: "Christ has no hands but our hands."

All of us have roles in distributing the harvest, the grace of God. Preacher Fred Craddock tells this story: My mother took us to church and Sunday school. My father didn't go. He complained about Sunday dinner being late. Sometimes the preacher would visit, and my father would say, "Church doesn't care about me, it just wants another name, another pledge." That's what he always said.

Sometimes we'd have a revival. Pastor would bring the evangelist and say to the evangelist, "There's one now, sic him, go get him," and my father would say the same thing. Every time, my mother in the kitchen, always nervous, in fear of flaring

tempers, of somebody being hurt. And always my father said, "The church doesn't care about me. The church only wants another name and another pledge." Craddock said he must have heard it a thousand times.

One time he didn't say it. He was in the veterans' hospital and down to 73 pounds. They'd replaced his throat with a metal tube. X-rays had burned him to pieces. He couldn't speak, he couldn't eat. Craddock visited and looked around his father's hospital room. Potted plants and cut flowers were on all the windowsills, a stack of cards 20 inches deep beside his bed. Even the now useless food tray had been covered with flowers. All the flowers beside the bed, every card, every blossom, were from persons or groups from the church.

His father saw Craddock read a card. He could not speak, so he took a Kleenex box and wrote on the side of it a line from Shakespeare. "In this harsh world, draw your breath in pain to tell my story." Craddock said, "What is your story, Daddy?" And he wrote, "I was wrong."

The need for Easter, for resurrection happened because Jesus saw beyond himself to a need so desperate that he was sick to his stomach and moved to act to relive it. To take the overflowing abundant harvest of grace and love with which God blesses; and he took it to his world. And he calls us to look beyond ourselves, to see the need and get sick to our stomach -- and take God's grace and love and forgiveness and resurrection power into our prayers for the world, to take it home to our families, take it to our neighborhoods, take it to where we eat and shop and work and play, and even take it to those who come to us, who cross our path -- always distributing God's grace and love, spreading hope and healing and wholeness, sowing the seeds of the kingdom of God. It can be a very small thing - - sending a note, smiling at someone who is having a bad day, there are all kinds of different things we can do -- little things, sometimes big things...

## **Candles**

We continue to distribute because it was never Jesus' intent for his light to stand alone in this world -- a world that seeks to preserve its absence of light so it can hide its brokenness. Yes, there is a sense in which Christ's mission was finished when he died and rose. No one can add anything to what he has done to bring salvation. But in another sense, his work of making all things new did not end with the resurrection, that was where it began -- and it continues to this day -- through his people. He calls us to go into all the highways and byways, bringing light to all the dark places, not to condemn, but to save. The reversal begins with Easter

morning. Even as we acknowledge that there is much pain and suffering in the world and among us, we have renewed confidence to place our trust in God and the way shown by Jesus Christ. For in the midst of the darkness.....there *is* light. In the pain of death.....there *is* life. And in the face of what appears to be overwhelming odds.....God is at work *in* us, and in the world. He is working alongside us for justice and peace.... for compassion and love towards one another.....and for a life that is abundant. Christ *has* risen.....in *us*--- for *wherever* we gather in His name to do his work ----- He is there.

Over the course of the 6 Sundays of Lent we named various kinds of brokenness -- now, as his followers, we move to reverse the pain and the wounds.

**Candle 6)** We re-light the 6<sup>th</sup> candle because as the light of Christ moves in and through us, people experiencing life's divisions can hear Paul say, "make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. (Romans 14:19 (NIV) ... encourage one another and build one another up (1Thessalonians 5:11) but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:29-32) For knowledge puffs up, while love builds up. (1 Corinthians 8:1) and [do what is beneficial and constructive] so that people may find a mutually supportive community and opportunities to build up others.

**Candle 5)** We re-light the 5<sup>th</sup> candle because as the light of Christ moves in and through us, people experiencing life's erosion can hear Paul say For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made... [so that care of it, is the implication] (Romans 1:20) And then in Genesis, it says that God blessed them and gave them this directive... I make you trustees of My estate, so care for My creation..." (From Genesis 1:28 (VOICE)) so that people may live in a safe environment and opportunities to practice faithful stewardship of our surroundings, and of the earth.

**Candle 4)** We re-light the 4<sup>th</sup> candle because as the light of Christ moves in and through us, people experiencing life's entropy (wearing out and giving up) can hear Paul say Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, (Ephesians 5:16-16a) and Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord ... since... it is the Lord Christ you

are serving. (From Colossians 3:23-24) so that people may find renewed vitality and opportunities to find renewed aspirations.

**Candle 3)** We re-light the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle because as the light of Christ moves in and through us, people experiencing life's barriers can hear Paul say... We try to live in such a way that no one will ever be offended or kept back from finding the Lord by the way we act, so that no one can find fault with us and blame it on the Lord.... [you to] be careful that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block for [others] (2 Corinthians 6:3, 1 Corinthians 8:9) and in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... [to] create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (From Ephesians 2:13-16) so that people may find each other and opportunities to find their voice and ear, and acceptance.

**Light Candle 2)** We re-light the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle because as the light of Christ moves in and through us, people experiencing life's scarcity can hear Jesus say, Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life... Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:28-31(NIV)) and Paul's words ...God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:7b-8 (NIV)) so that people may find provision and opportunities to find joy in generosity.

**Light Candle 1)** We re-light the 1<sup>st</sup> candle because as the light of Christ moves in and through us, people experiencing life's fragility can hear Jesus say, I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows (John 10:10b (AMP)). and hear that the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him (John 3:14b-15 (NIV)) so that people may find opportunities to discover a new lease on life and life eternal.



All of this is possible because we know we serve a risen Savior whose light continues to fill the earth even as it shines in our hearts. So let's stand and sing

## **Music (vv 1,2,3) *He Lives***

### **Communion Intro**

Our living Lord invited all who followed him to remember what he has done and what he is doing, and what he will do in our future by participating in the Communion. You don't have to be a member of this church or of Methodism in general to participate.

Throughout this series we have emphasized the burden of broken-ness that is so prevalent because of covid, or because of other forces too numerous or too personal to name except to ourselves and to God. Yet we heard today about Mosaics and Kintsugi and scars and that beautifully summed up this series filled with sea glass and all kinds of healing stories -- physical healing, social healing, spiritual healing, Jesus forged forward toward Jerusalem -- into the heart of the opposition's strongholds -- touching and transforming lives wherever he went. Then he faced the cross and made us whole. Let's prepare our hearts for Communion by singing about what he has done for us.

## **Music *He Touched Me***

### **Communion**

**Let's pray** God of power and majesty, with the rising of the sun you have raised Jesus Christ and delivered him and us from death's destruction. We praise you on this bright day for all your gifts of new life. Especially we thank you for all the victories over sin and evil in our lives... for loyalty and love of friends and family.. for the renewal of nature, for the continuing witness of your church. God of eternity, you are present with us because of Christ's rising from the dead and you persist in lifting us to new life in him. We bring you our prayers for this world in need of resurrection. We pray for nations and people in strife, for the poor and impoverished, at home and abroad, for those we know in particular circumstances of distress -- today we say praises for

- \* Rita and Kari, Karen says they are feeling better and are home.
- \* Pastor's father who had a setback probably due to medication, but is improving...
- \* For Sharon Infantino's niece who was in a car accident and in bad condition.
- \* For the family and friends (esp son Nicholas and mother Judy) of Fran's niece Sherri who has ended her fight with cancer and has gone to be with the Lord.

And today especially we thank you for all who follow the risen Christ, who taught us to pray. **Lord's Prayer**

The Lord is with us. So let us lift up our hearts to the Lord and give thanks to our Sovereign God. For it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere

to give thanks to you. In the beginning you breathed life into creation, creating and animating containers of beauty and goodness. We, your Holy Vessels, were fired in the kiln of love until we shined with your light.

But we often find ourselves broken. You patiently remind us time and again that, though broken, we are held in your presence and made whole by trusting and receiving your healing grace.

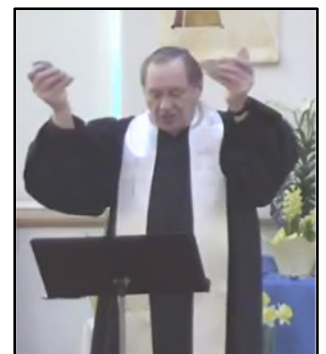
Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, for it is because of his obedience to you, his Father, it is because of his suffering.... it is because of his death.... it is because of your *amazing* grace, your merciful tolerance---expressed through Jesus.... words and deeds and touch, that we have the opportunity as individuals, to follow his example of infinite love---in ourselves, towards each other, and to the you, the Father of us all.

As we observe with awe your creation of a perfect blossom unfolding its petals, glistening with dewdrops to the first golden rays of the sun, we behold the miracle of creation and open ourselves to the belief that with your power, anything is possible. Let your light shine through eternity for all to follow.

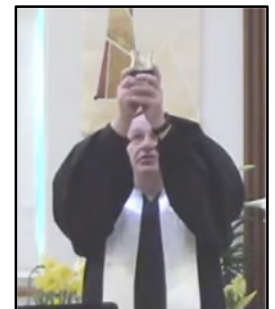
Jesus, you had us follow you into an upper room, where you washed our feet and told us to follow your example, commanding us to love and serve each other, and you invited us to participate in a new covenant that you would establish by your body and blood.

So pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and at home, and on these gifts of bread and cup and whatever elements you may have at home. Make them be for us what you told your first disciples.

When you took the bread, gave thanks to your Father, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Eat)



When the supper was over, you took the cup, gave thanks to your Father, and gave it to your disciples, and said, "This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (drink)



And so, Lord we have received you, and your healing life-transforming actions. Therefore, we offer ourselves as a holy and



living sacrifice, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, healing agents in a broken world, offering the life-blood of hope, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Music Intro** Let's stand and affirm our confidence that Christ is alive and our eager participation in serving the great news by our love and by our lives.

**Music # 318 *Christ is Alive***

**Blessing** Our Good Friday Worship Service was entitled "A Good Service" The Service was first and foremost, Jesus' service to God his Father -- on the cross -- for our sake, but also Jesus' words to the disciples complaining about the woman who anointed him with oil - "She has performed a good service for me" --- May those words echo in our hearts and may it become our goal to have those words said of us often by our Lord. May it add joy to our living and a spring in our steps knowing that the risen Lord is fulfilling his mission in making us whole and holy, and agents, instruments of that same mission for others. Amen.

**Post Service Music**