

The background is a complex abstract composition. At the top, a thick, irregular gold-colored ring is set against a solid black field. Below this, the image is divided into two main vertical sections. The left section features a dark, charcoal-colored surface with numerous fine, golden-brown scratches and speckles, giving it a weathered or metallic appearance. The right section is a large, rectangular area filled with dense, concentric, wavy lines in shades of light gray and white, resembling a textured surface like stone or a close-up of a shell. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

The Church of the Red Rocks

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Faith Community

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17, 2025

In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life, there is a deafening alleluia rising from the souls of those who weep, and of those who weep with those who weep. If you watch, you will see the hand of God putting the stars back in their skies one by one.

ON this *Maundy Thursday* we gather to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of the Christian sacrament, the Lord's Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin "mandatum," which means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them.

(John 13:34)

Never doubt the meaning of this night. It happened a long time ago, but it happened. Jesus walked on this earth. He practiced a ministry of radical inclusivity, drawing to himself all the despised and rejected members of society. He lived what he taught: a life of justice and love, of amazing compassion for all people.

We remember this evening the tragic events Of long ago when Jesus, who fully embodied God's intention for all of us, fell victim to the Destructive power of empire. Even his best friends did not dare to challenge this miscarriage of justice which led to the cross.

As we put ourselves into the story, we are likely to be counted among either the oppressors or the cowardly friends. Either way, we have much to contemplate.

Trusting that the One who embraces the universe is also, the One who knows us intimately and call us by name, let us open our hearts to God.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Pam Moore, piano

"As We Gather"

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

GIFT OF MUSIC

Grace Andersen & Pam Moore

"It Was a Sad and Solemn Night"

OPENING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION

No. 330

"Let us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my
face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my
face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my
face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Mark 14: 12-16

REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER

Our table is wide-open to all who desire a closer relationship with God, no matter your age, gender, station in life, sexual orientation, or faith tradition. We use grape juice rather than wine so that all may come freely to the table.

Gluten free bread is available.

COMMUNION PRAYER

FORTELLING OF THE BETRAYAL

Mark 14: 17-21

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mark 14: 22-25

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*You are invited to eat and drink as you
receive the gifts of bread and cup.*

GIFT OF MUSIC

Pam Moore, piano

"Christ at Table There with Friends"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

The Service of Tenebrae (shadows) involves the gradual extinguishing of the lights, symbolic of the Passion of our Lord.

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

Matthew 25: 31-37

Matthew 25: 41-43

Matthew 25: 37-40

Matthew 25: 44-46

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Isaiah 53: 1-6

THE HOUR IS COMING

John 12: 27-36

PREPARING FOR BURIAL

Matthew 26: 1-5 and Matthew 26: 6 -13

IS IT I LORD?

Matthew 26: 14-22

GIFT OF MUSIC

No. 218 (vs. 1-2)

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Grace Andersen & Pam Moore

JUDAS IDENTIFIED

John 13: 23-30

THE SCATTERED

Matthew 26: 30-35

ANGUISH IN THE GARDEN

Mark 14: 32-42

THE KISS OF BETRAYAL

Mark 14: 43-45

PETER’S DENIAL

John 18: 25-27

THE CROWD’S DENIAL

Luke 23: 13-25

THE SOLDIER’S ABUSE

Matthew 27: 27-31

CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27: 32-36

FORSAKEN

Mark 15: 33-39

EVENING PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

No. 229 (vs. 1 only)

“Were You There?”

Grace Andersen & Pam Moore

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF RESURRECTION HOPE

John 1:1-4; 9-12

SILENT DEPARTURE

A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS!

We invite you to come and be part of our community of faith; come and be blessed by God's grace in our midst. For more information about the church, please contact Pastor Guillermo at pastor@churchoftheredrocks.com

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER GATHERING
Tomorrow, Friday, April 18, 2025
2:00 to 4:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

6:30 AM Sunrise in the courtyard of Sedona UMC
An ecumenical service in Christian unity,
collaborated by:

***Sedona United Methodist Church,
Sedona Crist Lutheran Church and
The Church of the Red Rocks, United
Church of Christ***

8:30 am Easter Service

10:30 am Easter Service with CRR Handbell Choir
Performance

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