



NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

April 2, 2026 – Maundy Thursday

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Christ. Serving with Love.

Prelude “Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee” arr. K. Lee Scott

Opening Invitation

*Call to Worship

Leader: On Palm Sunday, we welcomed Him with praise.

People: But today, we come closer to the table, to the truth.

Leader: When we seek greatness, He shows us humility.

People: When we reach for power, He calls us to serve.

Leader: He is among us, not as one who rules, but as one who loves.

People: We come to follow, not on our terms, but on His way. Amen.

*Hymn “Let Us Break Bread Together” UMH #618

*Gospel Reading Luke 22:14-27 Pew Bible pg. 86

Prayed of Confession

Gracious God, on this holy night, we remember how You came among us, not in power, but in humility. And yet we confess that we still seek our own way. We desire to be first, to be recognized, to remain in control. We have followed You in word, but resisted You in heart. Forgive us, Lord. Cleanse us from what is within us that does not reflect Your way. Shape in us a spirit that is willing to follow, to serve, and to trust You more than ourselves. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader:

Even when we reach for control, Jesus comes among us as one who serves.

Even when we resist His way, He still offers Himself in love.

Hear the good news: You are forgiven. You are free.

Go now, humbled, restored, and called to serve in love.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Choral Anthem “When Twilight Comes” arr. R.B. Farlee

Reflection “At the Table, Still Wanting More” Pastor R. Brailsford

Prayers for the People

Invitation to Communion

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” UMH #290
(Verses 1, 2, & 3)

Stripping of the Altar John 18:1-8
(*The Beginning of Betrayal*)

Please exit the sanctuary in silence.



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