

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Maundy Thursday**



April 17, 2025

CCLI #292978, and #20547245

CHURCH ORGANIZED ON AUGUST 18, 1778

Present building erected in North Conway Village 1884

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are
welcome here!"**

"Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do."

— David Wilkerson

***Please stand if you are able**

Gathering

Call to Worship

One: On this holy night, we gather in the shadow of the cross, not in triumph, but in tenderness.

All: We come to remember the love that kneels, serves, and does not turn away.

One: Jesus, knowing his hour had come, stripped off his robe and wrapped a towel around his waist.

All: The Son of God stooped low, touching dirt, washing feet, loving to the end.

One: Here, greatness is revealed not in power, but in self-giving humility.

All: Here, the Holy One shows us that love gets its hands dirty.

One: In the upper room, the empire's logic was overturned—hierarchy undone by water and basin.

All: We follow a Savior who resists domination by embodying radical service.

One: This is the gospel of kneeling, of bending low to lift others up.

All: This is the path we are called to walk—one of compassion, courage, and embodied love.

One: Let us worship not with empty words, but with hearts open to be washed, and hands ready to serve.

All: We come to remember. We come to receive. We come to follow the Way of Love.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: Gracious and humble God, on this night we remember how love knelt before betrayal, how divinity took the form of a servant, and how glory was found not in thrones, but in towels and basins. As we gather in the stillness of this sacred space,

open our hearts to the mystery unfolding before us. Wash from us the fear that keeps us from loving freely. Cleanse the pride that clings to status and control. Remove whatever separates us from one another and from you. May your Spirit move among us, softening what has hardened and healing what has broken. Teach us again what it means to love—not in word alone, but in action. May we follow your example, stooping low to lift one another up, and walking the path of compassion, humility, and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn NCH #223 What Wondrous Love This Is

Proclamation

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Hebrew Bible p. 735)
 Philippians 2:1-8 (NT p. 197)
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

At the end of the readings, the reader will say, "The word of God for the people of God." We invite your response to be, "Thanks be to God."

Word In Music None Other Lamb
 (C. Courtney/C. Rosetti/C. Marker)

Message Our Humble God Pastor Walt

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer (*The St. Francis Eucharistic Prayer*)

One: The Holy Living God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Eucharist Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (by John Phillip Newell)

One: Now as our Savior Jesus taught us, let us pray together:

All: Ground of all being, Mother of life, Father of the universe, Your name is sacred, beyond speaking. May we know your presence, may your longings be our longings in heart and in action. May there be food for the human family today and for the whole earth community. Forgive us the falseness of what we have done as we forgive those who are untrue to us. Do not forsake us in our time of conflict but lead us into new beginnings. For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sharing The Gifts

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray.

All: All: God of Humble Love, we give thanks for this holy meal, for the bread broken and the cup poured, signs of your love that stoops low and serves without pride. In this communion, you have washed our weary spirits, feeding us with mercy deeper than fear, wider than shame. As you have knelt before us, may we rise to follow you. Let this meal strengthen us to love boldly, to serve humbly, and to walk gently with one another. May we go out into the night not afraid of the darkness, but carrying the light of your self-giving love. In your holy and tender name, we pray. Amen.

Sending Out

***Hymn** NCH #222 My Song Is Love Unknown

Benediction

*You are invited to sit in silence as we strip the altar.
Please depart in silence.*