

The
Punctuation
of
JESUS
Maunder Thursday



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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Lana Biondo, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Gabriel Requadt, *Christian Ed & Admin Support* [gabriel@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Website and Graphic Design* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors and Becca Palmgren, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome *to* Parkway

Thank you for joining us this evening! If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat or sending an email.

Welcome Children We invite children to full participation in worship. We also have activity bags for young children to use while they are here.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Scripture Readers Evelyn Buretta and Gabriel Requadt
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CA4AC23AB9-scripture1>

Subscribe to our email lists Sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

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Mental Health Support

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911... call or text)
24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK) | 800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433
24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760
Text 741741 and someone will text right back...www.crisistextline.org
Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713
The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).
They are peer run by people with lived experience.
Not all of them are 24/7/365
Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336
Black Warm Line: 1-800-604-5841 (They are divested from the police)
Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860
Project Return Warm Line: 1-800-448-9777 (run away)
Learn more about warm lines: <https://warmline.org/warmdir.html>

Birthdays

03/31 Katie Wolff
03/31 Matthew Williams
04/01 Klover Bowman
04/01 Liz Lyons
04/02 Kevin Rauscher
04/02 Jennifer Woodson
04/04 Jennifer Krpan
04/06 Florence Simonson

Anniversaries

04/04 Mike and Peggy Mohl

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 2024 | 7:00pm | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation A generous heart is always open, always ready to receive our going and coming. In the midst of such love, we need never fear abandonment. This is the most precious gift true love offers - the experience of knowing we always belong. ~bell hooks

Prelude *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* (Jesu Kreuz, Leiden und Pein)
arr. by Albert Beck, based on the hymn tune by Melchior Vulpius (1609)

Going to the Upper Room Luke 22: 7-13

It was the day of Unleavened Bread. Jesus sent Peter and John – “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us.” They asked him, “Where do you want us to make preparations for it?” “Listen,” he said to them, “when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks you, ‘Where is the guest room, where I may eat Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.’” So, they went and found everything as Jesus had said.

Lighting of the Candles

Gathering Song *Come Share the Lord* #2269 | [Blue Songbook](#)



1. We gath-er here in Je - sus' name, his love is
(3. He joins us) here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who
(5. We'll gath-er) soon where an - gels sing; we'll see the



burn-ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame; for through the
pours the cup is ris - en from the dead; the one we
glo - ry of our Lord and com-ing King; now we an -



lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one; }
love the most is now our gra - cious host: } Come, take the
ti - ci - pate the feast for which we wait: }

Fine



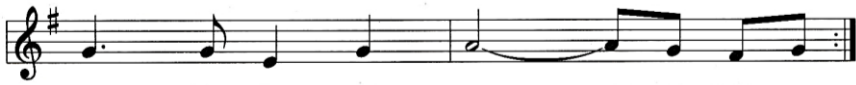
bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.



2. No one is a stran-ger here, — ev - ery - one be -
4. We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is



longs; find - ing our for - give-ness here, we in
head; though un - seen he meets us here in the



turn for - give all wrongs. 3. He joins us
break - ing of the bread. 5. We'll gath - er

Welcome and Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

*Call to Worship

One: Remember the love of Jesus, gathered at table with his friends.

Many: We are here to recall the celebration of the Passover.

One: Remember the Passover not for its gory details, but for its focus on family, faith, freedom and festival.

Many: We are here to feel the nurture and encouragement of Jesus—no matter what.

One: Remember the humble and holy ways the Spirit of love washed over the disciples.

Many: We are here to receive blessing beyond measure and to commit ourselves again to following in the loving ways of Jesus - which weave us together into a tapestry of belonging.

All: Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Lenten Candles

We lit seven candles on Ash Wednesday as we embarked on this Lenten journey. We wanted the light of the Holy to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus. We committed ourselves to being more infused by the Spirit as we traveled. Even as we knew this was good and important work, we recognized that it wasn't easy—and we would come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

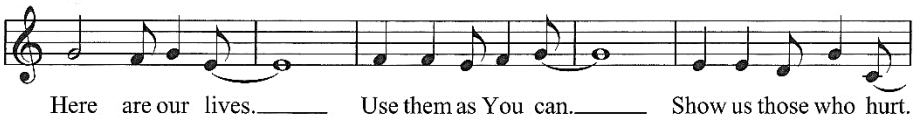
We have extinguished one candle each time we've gathered for worship this season, acknowledging that this is tough and exhausting work. As we approach the desertion and depletion of later tonight and of Good Friday, we extinguish this final candle. Even as we do so, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light and love that never is gone.

Prayer at the Candles

The Punctuation of Jesus: *How and What He Communicates*

Holy One, send your spirit that we might find more clarity around what it is that Jesus is trying to share with us. He uses different forms of communication in an effort to reach each and every one of us - regardless of our learning styles, life experiences and ability to focus. He is eager and effective in his attempts. Help us to open our heart, mind, spirit and all of our senses - that we might be more available to receive, understand and pass along what he wants and needs us to know now. Amen.

Response *Here Are Our Hearts* by Susan Drake and Julie Jennings



Children's Time Children may remain with their families. The Nursery is not staffed but is open if your child needs a break from worship. You may also feel at home in the Gathering Space just outside the sanctuary.

Blessing the Children *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*

Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all. Heal - ing pain and
Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you. Make them strong and

sick - ness, bless - ing child - ren small. Wash - ing tir - ed feet and
gen - tle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Je - sus,

sav - ing those who fall. Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all.
till I'm gen - tle too. Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Remembering the Passover Story Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Offering Our Gifts to God 2nd Mile Lent

Heifer International | Lydia's House | Unleashing Potential | Eden Seminary

Offertory *'Twas On That Dark, That Doleful Night* (St. Cross)

arr. by Albert Beck, based on the hymn tune by John B. Dykes (1861)

Response

**Praise God for visions great and small,
Praise God who calls us one and all,
Praise God whose Spirit gives new sight,
Praise God who fills our lives with light. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, you take good care of us in more ways than we know. Your intimate love is reflected in the kindness of Jesus, who washed the feet of his disciples. May we show your love to one another and our neighbors through practical deeds. Make us willing to get our hands dirty in assisting others. Help us to discover joy in giving our time, money and heart. We ask this in the spirit of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve. Amen.

Song *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*, v1-2

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.**

Refrain: **And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.** (Refrain)

Jesus Is Our Example John 13:2b-5, 12-15

And during supper, Jesus, knowing that God had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

Moment of Silence

Reflection

Song *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*, v3-4

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.**

Refrain: **And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to Creator, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.** (Refrain)

Communion Gospel Mark 14:17-25

When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Please hold the bread/wafer until we all can eat at the same time. Drink the wine/juice at your own pace. Communion is an individual and communal act.

Going Out to the Garden Mark 14:26-31

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

In the Garden Mark 14:32-50

Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?”

Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.”

All of them deserted him and fled.

Postlude *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (Gethsemane) – arr. by Albert Beck, based on the hymn tune by Richard Redhead (1853)

2nd Mile Lent & Easter 2024

Lydia's House lydiashouse.org

Lydia's House offers secure housing and immediate community for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. We have 50 confidentially located, fully furnished apartments where families can find refuge, safety and support. Our transitional housing is one of the largest in the country and the only program of its kind in eastern Missouri.

Each family at Lydia's House is provided an advocate to help guide them through the process of recovering from abuse. All family members are connected to support services, including individual and group resources, to help them build the skills that are necessary not only for surviving but thriving in the wake of trauma.

UP - *Unleashing Potential* [formerly Neighborhood Houses] upstl.org

Neighborhood Houses has loved children in St Louis and helped resilient families to be even more so since 1913.

Early Childhood Education: Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited Early Childhood facility operated by UP.

After School Programs: UP is the #1 provider of before and after school programming in the St Louis Public Schools... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more!

GeoQuest Program: expands access to education, hands-on learning, and skill training in geospatial technology for children in K-8 grades.

Heifer International heifer.org

Heifer International does more than put food in the mouths of hungry people. Heifer helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability -- project partners achieving self-reliance. And year after year, as partner families "pass on the gift" of knowledge and one or more of their animals' offspring to others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves.

Eden Seminary eden.edu

Eden Theological Seminary is a graduate school preparing people for ordained Christian ministry. One of the six seminaries of the United Church of Christ, Eden is a community that seeks God's justice and peace in the world.

Eden was established in 1850. It was established because a European education was not adequate to prepare pastors for Evangelical churches on the North American frontier. From its beginning, Eden has embodied an ecumenical spirit. Its first graduating class included six Evangelicals as well as a Methodist and a Mennonite.

Today, students from many different denominations are engaged in theological education at Eden as it remains committed to educating faithful and effective leaders for church and society.

Poetry for Maundy Thursday by Sara Are

Water (excerpt)

So as water slowly filled the basin,
I wonder, did Jesus remember those spaces—
those spaces where water had breathed new life,
and the spaces where water took with might?
I wonder if he thought of my baptism day,
and of the water in Flint, and of hurricanes.
I wonder if he could see the joy of summer rains,
and how winter snow heals our busiest days.
I wonder if he thought of it in cosmic proportions—
water, this source of life and force;
water, the source that holds new birth;
water, the deep, the dark, the first. . .

Bread (excerpt)

I should have known there would be water,
but of course there would be bread.
From the start of creation, God has tried to keep us fed—
fed on bread and roses and love we don't notice.
I should have known there would be water,
but of course there would be bread.
I should have known there would be space
at the table for grace—
space for nerves, and questions, and absent confessions;
space for me and Elijah and Judas, without question.
I should have known there would be space,
but of course there would be bread—
for it started with manna, and all must be fed. . .

Silver (excerpt)

Thirty pieces of silver—that's all it took.
Blood money paid to say Jesus was a crook.
Blood money to say, "He doesn't matter to me."
Blood money for the man who'd just washed them clean.
It's hard to believe that in just one night
Judas could go from washed and cleaned,
forgiven and known, loved and seen,
to then turn around so easily
for a small cash payment ending in brutality. . .