



Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

7:30 PM

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ

Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Thank you for worshiping with us at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

ERUCC is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. We welcome into the full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

We ask that you **please silence your cell phones** during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Restrooms, accessible and equipped with changing stations, are located on the 2nd floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1st floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2nd floor.

There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far.

We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

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**EVANGELICAL REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
— An Open and Affirming Congregation —



*The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal
All who are able may stand

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
TENEBRAE COMMUNION SERVICE**

This service has three main parts:

A Service of Light, based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light

A Service of Holy Communion, in which we are invited to participate as one of The Twelve at the Last Supper

A Service of Shadows—Tenebrae, in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light

PRELUDE

Were You There

Ms. Alison E. Shafer
— Spiritual, arr. C. Marohnic

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Power Like a Seed

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads
— written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

In a world that wants power like a machine gun,
power like a bomber plane,
power like a gated fence to keep the hungry out,
I want power like a seed—
power that will crack me open and grow something good;
power like an open door,
an invitation that says, “*Come on in;*”
power that feels like a strong spine with a soft heart.
I want the power to listen, to lean in, to ask follow-up questions.
But more than anything, I want the power to bring us together, to lift you up.
There are different kinds of power.
One will build a wall.
One will plant a garden.
We should know by now, only one will bear fruit.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Everyone who answered Jesus' call to follow him found their lives upended. Leaving their livelihoods behind, they leaned into an upside-down way of thinking, one that centers impoverished and oppressed people in place of the rich and powerful.

On the fateful night when Jesus gathered his closest friends for one last meal, the disciples' lives were upended once again. Jesus invited them into a liminal space, a threshold between his life of teaching with them at his side, and the approaching reality of his arrest and death. In this space, they were called to reimagine supposed opposites: power and weakness, fear and hope, innocence and guilt, life and death.

We too will linger in in-between spaces and challenge dualistic thinking. Just as the disciples did, we will share a meal, pray together, and sing. We will also read between the lines of scripture to imagine parts of the story through the eyes of figures who are often overlooked. After all, Jesus spent most of his time with the people who slip through cracks in society.

Come, let us join Jesus in his final days.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

God is the strength of my life: whom shall I dread?

I am seeking your presence, O God.

Do not abandon me to my foes.

There are people who hate me;

there are things that control me;

there are places that frighten me.

Trust in God. Stand fast and have courage.

Help us this night not to fall away.

Strengthen our faith,

increase our love for one another,

and give us the courage to withstand.

*OPENING HYMN

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

#336
stanzas 1, 2

INVOCATION FOR THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray:

**Gracious God,
you give us the sun to illumine the day
and the moon and the stars to shine by night.
Kindle in us the flame of your love
that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light
and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory;
through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.
Amen.**

PRAYER AT THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

O Gracious Light, Pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and Blessed!
**Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold your vesper
light, we sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity.**
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Christ of God,
O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

LIGHTING OF THE TABLE CANDLES

***HYMN**

Christ Be Our Light

– B. Ferrell

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.**

Refrain: **Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. (Refrain)**

**Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed.**

**Refrain: Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone. (Refrain)**

**Many the gift, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come. (Refrain)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray:

Spirit of Christ, be with us now.

We may try to avoid this hour of trouble; we may not stay awake.

Help us to face our fear of the cross on which you died.

Help us face the crosses we must carry to honor your life.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

Let us continue:

We are your disciples.

And we, too, follow you with confusion and fear.

Strengthen us, we pray,

**so that we may walk through life into death without fear;
through the night into eternal light.**

Amen.

READING THE MANDATUM NOVUM (NEW COMMANDMENT)

John 13:34-35

ANTHEM

Ubi caritas

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other
with a sincere heart. Amen.

Senior Choir
– M. Duruflé

– REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Last Supper shows us who is welcome at Christ's table:
People who sometimes trust, and sometimes question,
who are sometimes fearful, sometimes bold.
Liars and backsliders, doubters and deniers,
and those who still struggle to get free of what the world calls power,
but commit to revolution anyway.
Impulsive people. Imperfect people.
People who mess up over and over—
but try again, and again, and again.
In short: each and every one of us.

So let no one ever tell you that you are not welcome here:
Jesus wants you at his table, exactly as you are.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The Last Supper was an intimate gathering of close friends. Tonight, we invite you to serve each other, passing the elements from person to person around the table. One person at the table will begin by taking the bread and turning to the person on their right, saying a blessing such as:

“The bread of life.”

That person will take and eat one piece of bread. Then, the first person will do likewise with the cup, saying a blessing such as:

“The cup of salvation.”

After receiving the elements, the second person will take the bread and cups and serve the person to their right until everyone has been fed. Please remain at the table until you receive a blessing.

*You will be invited to come forward in groups of 11.
As you wait to come to the table, spend this time in silent reflection.
As you come forward, imagine yourself at that table with Jesus:
What are you seeing? Feeling?*

As you leave, move to the next table. Place your empty cup in the tray, then take a lighted candle and return to your pew. As you listen to the readings that will soon be read, you are invited to extinguish your candle at some point when a reading strikes you – or when all the readings are finished so that there will eventually be complete darkness.

– THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS: TENEBRAE –

SHADOW OF BETRAYAL Matthew 26:20-22, 25	Peg Stahler
SHADOW OF DESERTION Matthew 26:31a, 33-35	Ethan Kline
AGONY OF THE SOUL Luke 22:39-44	Shelley Weakly
UNSHARED VIGIL Mark 14:32-41	Eric Weakly
FATHER/MOTHER, THE HOUR HAS COME John 17:1-4, 6	Rebecca Shillingburg
THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE John 17:15-26	Ave Barr
ARREST IN THE GARDEN John 18:1-5	Robert Morris
SHADOW OF THE CROSS Mark 15:16-20	Barbara Rhodes

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 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.**

– THE STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY –

THE PROMISE

John 14:15-17

There is no benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning's resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Please depart in silence.



Today's liturgy was adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed and Avery Arden / *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org.

The cover artwork is *Four Waters at Table* by Hannah Garrity | Inspired by Luke 22:1-27 | Paper lace with watercolor | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org.

Service Notes

Deacon: Matt Davis
Audio: Larry Martin
Communion: Ave Barr

Our pastoral and administrative offices will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21.

HOLY WEEK AT ERUCC

HOLY FRIDAY

Friday, April 18

12:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

7:30 PM Worship in Sanctuary and Livestream



As Jesus dies on the cross, one thief resists him and the other accepts him as Messiah. Jesus resists the empire but accepts his fate. We also are called to resist systems of power and oppression, and yet we ultimately have to accept that Jesus dies—and one day we will too. We have to discern what to accept as given and what to resist, what is “God’s will,” and what is the result of our own unquestioned systems.

The Senior Choir will sing.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20

8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary and Livestream



Grief is a healthy response to Jesus’ death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don’t believe the women’s message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn’t have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.

This morning, we will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at stations in the front of the Sanctuary. The Senior Choir will sing and guest brass players will join us in celebration. We will also add to our Prayer Tree, expanding its inclusivity with brightly colored prayer flowers, alongside the fresh flowers we place on the Easter Cross, symbolizing our collective prayers and the beauty of resurrection hope.

ADORN OUR FLORAL EASTER CROSS

Sunday, April 20



As we embrace the joy of Easter, you are invited to help transform the cross into a beautiful symbol of resurrection and new life. Bring fresh flowers—whether from your garden or a florist—and place them on the cross in the sanctuary.

During the 10:30 AM service, we will celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and at the end of worship, the flower-adorned cross will be carried outside to the portico, proclaiming the promise of new life to our Frederick community.

Following worship, the Easter Cross will be moved to the outside stairs for photos. We especially invite children and youth to join Pastor Kirstin and Pastor Morgan for a group photo at the cross.

Join us in this cherished tradition as we share the beauty and hope of Easter!

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

CONSISTORY

Peter Brehm ~ *President* | Matt Hueting ~ *Vice President*

David Kehne ~ *Secretary* | Robert Morris ~ *Treasurer*

Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Will Duncan ~ *Finance Chair*

Shelley Weakly ~ *Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Chair*

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Dan Ebersole ~ *Property Chair*

Vacant ~ *Christian Education Chair* | Matt Davis ~ *Head Deacon* | Larry Martin ~ *Member-at-Large*

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Eric Weakly

DEACONS

Quynn Adkins | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | Angela Brittain

Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

TRANSITION TEAM

Felecia Bishop | Tommie Bradshaw | Karen Justice | Terry Logee | Allen Maples

Thomasa Pomeroy | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely | Katie Zander

