



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 at 6:30 PM

The Loving Way

You are invited to join the pastor, on the right side of the altar, for a time of prayer before we begin worship this morning.

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love is This

Judi Wilkinson

by: Folk Hymn/Keveren

WE GATHER

Meeting One Another on The Way

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us know that you worshipped with us today: www.westernhillsep.org/attendance/

See our full list of announcements here: www.westernhillsep.org/happening-now/

Preparing Together

Threshold Moment

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG "A Wilderness Wandering People"

[sing through twice]

We are a wilderness wandering people

on a journey of the soul.

May we find our destination

in our longing to be whole.

Our Holy God is calling to us.

With Jesus by our side

may compassion be our compass;

may the Spirit be our guide,

on The Way,

on The Way,

on The Way.

PRAYER FOR THE PATH

God of Our Lives,

be with us on The Way.

At times we do not want to face the hardest parts of the journey,
afraid of the pain and suffering that comes with life.

How do we withstand these times?

We come seeking your company.

Help us. Be with us. Comfort us. Yet nudge us forward.

Amen.

HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together No. 618

WE PROCLAIM

Discovering Ourselves on The Way

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 53: 3-6 *NRSVue*

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE TABLE IS SET

ANTHEM Let all Mortal flesh keep Silent – Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (Inclusive Bible)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands No. 273

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

PRAYERS FOR GETTING OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY

We have been accompanied in this season by prayer poems by Rev. John Winn. We have called them "Prayers for Getting Out of Our Own Way" and their confessional stance has helped us realize how often we are the ones who prevent ourselves from moving forward toward life. Rev. John Winn was a "pastor to pastors" in his ministry as he helped many pastors through the most difficult parts of their lives. As a child he was the victim of polio and spent long hours in convalescence as a young boy, giving him a life-long gift of self-reflection and relationship with God. His prayer poem we read tonight reminds us that no matter how insecure we feel about our journeys and our ability to move forward, Jesus knows and loves us because he has been there. And no

matter how many stones you are carrying around like the weight of the world, you can have peace... just ask

I am convinced, Dear God,
that "all things work together"
They may clatter and clink,
groan and ache, sputter and falter,
but it seems there is a connectedness in all things,
however hidden and uncertain it may be;
and however long and patiently
we must seek before we "get it."

What I am not convinced of, O God,
is that "all things work together *for good.*"
I have read that more than once in the Holy Book
and I want very much for it to be true,
but this is not always my experience.
My Honesty about this seems to be
challenging my capacity to Hope.
I do not want to surrender either.

Is the good I am longing for always
off in some future time, in some unknown place?
Is it right in front of me,
but my own ego and self are so tangled
that they cancel it out?
I work very hard at "loving God,"
as well as at loving the persons around me.
Indeed, loving the persons around me seems
to be the best way that I *can* "love God."
As a result, though, much of the time
I only feel taken for granted or even exploited.

Let me say this:
I know that all things are not possible for me.
Perhaps all I can do now is find
whatever good I can in every circumstance
that is integral to my life and
extract it, *embrace* it, and *share* it
with those I care about the most.
That will not be easy for me, Lord.
Some circumstances hurt so much
that I seem blinded to any good they may hold,
but I have been trying for a long time.

Promise me, that whenever it happens again
that all I can feel is clatter and clink,
groan and ache, sputter and falter,
that you will send me a friend
who has felt the same way at times
and who can help me find a way out and beyond—
someone like Jesus.
Amen.

HYMN - Lord Listen to Your Children Praying No. 2193

ASSURANCE

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

A PILGRIMAGE FROM TABLE TO CROSS Celebration of Holy Communion

SOLO – Where Are You Going? -Jackie Gaines

SCRIPTURE

ANTHEM - Sacred Now Wounded The Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

BLESSING

HYMN - Were You There No. 288

POSTLUDE

Were You There
by: Spiritual/Kevin

Judi Wilkinson

LAY READER: