

# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026



Photo: Deb Boucher

**WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!**

We are an "Open and Affirming" Church



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2, 2026

Maundy Thursday

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP AND INVITING THE WORD**

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

One: We gather

**Many: To remember the wonders of You; To speak Your name; To celebrate You; And you, And you.**

One: We gather

**Many: For the Mysteries: For the bread and wine; For the Word made flesh; For the Cup of the New Covenant.**

One: We gather

**Many: Where the dreams of Eden grow, sprouting leaves for the healing of the nations.**

One: Where we gather

**Many: You are welcome. You are loved; As you are.**

\* OPENING HYMN #211 "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" (vs. 1,2)

LONESOME VALLEY

\*GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**Spirit of Christ, be with us now. Guide us in the hour of trouble; awaken us when we fall asleep. Help us to face the cross upon which You died for our sakes. Help us to face the crosses we must carry. Lead us through life and into death. We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in You. We ask this through the sacred name of Jesus, and we continue to pray using the words He taught us...**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**We live in the shadow of peace, O God, but too often we face the shadow and not the light. We pray for peace today because we know we are not a whole people without it. Forgive us our warring madness, our abuse of power, and our disregard for the rights of others. Help us quell the need to always be in control. Teach us the ways of mutual love for all people. Help us to choose to live in peace. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*HYMN #414

“Eat This Bread”

BERTHIER

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (as found on the inside cover of your hymn book)

INVITATION

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**For the healing You have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of cup we thank You God. For the community You have restored in us through the sharing of life, we thank You God. For the love You shower upon us daily, we thank You God. Amen.**

ANTHEM

"He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word" (Crucifixion)

Traditional Spirit

Joseph Stillitano

Arranged by Moses Hogan

*Wasn't it a pity and a shame? And He never said a mumbalin' word.  
They pierced Him in the side, and He never said a mumbalin' word.  
His blood came trickling down, and He never said a mumbalin' word.  
He bowed His head and died, and He never said a mumbalin' word.*

### **THE SERVICE OF TENNEBRAE**

LESSON ONE:

Matthew 26:2-16

Jesus Announces His Betrayal

LESSON TWO:

Matthew 26:17-30

Jesus Shares the Bread and Cup

HYMN #197

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (vs. 1 and 2)

ST. CHRISTOPHER

LESSON THREE: Matthew 26:36-39 Jesus Prays in Gethsemane  
LESSON FOUR: Matthew 26:40-46 The Disciples Fall Asleep

HYMN #195 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (vs. 1 and 2) HAMBURG

LESSON FIVE: Matthew 26:47-56 Jesus is arrested in the Garden  
LESSON SIX: Matthew 26:57-75 Jesus' Trial and Peter's Denial

HYMN #202 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (vs. 1 and 2) PASSION CHORALE

LESSON SEVEN: Matthew 27:1-2,11-26 Pilate Washes His Hands  
LESSON EIGHT: Matthew 27:27-31 The Soldiers Mock Jesus

#### DRAPING OF THE CROSS

THE DARKNESS: Matthew 27:32-37 Jesus is Led Out to Be Crucified

HYMN #198 "Were You There" WERE YOU THERE

LESSON NINE: John 1:1-5 A Light Shines In the Darkness

The congregation will depart in silence  
following the Christ candle and the worship leaders.

Deacon: Linda Borglund

Acolytes: Jeffrey Stillitano and Maciej Moskal

Readers: Steve Achorn, Cora Fitzgibbons, Melinda MacKendrick, Ron MacKendrick, Celeste Chenet-Monte, Barbara Noeth, Paul Regnier, Roland Regnier