



# Tokyo Union Church

Maundy Thursday  
March 28, 2024 at 7:30 pm

**The Maundy Thursday Service** is one of endings and beginnings. What began on Ash Wednesday is brought to a close here tonight. What begins tonight does not end until the resurrection of Easter. This is the ancient Triduum, "The Three Sacred Days," which lead us to Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday with its Vigil of Easter.

## Preparation for Our Shared Communion Meal

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If you are participating online, we welcome you and invite you to prepare some bread and a drink so we can all eat and drink at the same time later in the service. Any kind of bread or basic food - rice is good also - will do. And juice from grapes is good and traditional, but another juice or drink will also do.

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Prelude "What Wondrous Love Is This" by T. Chesterton Miwako Horii

Words of Welcome Pastor Steve Yamaguchi

## COME TO THE LORD

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Call to Worship Pastor Héctor Herrera

Leader: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another.

**People: Just as Christ has loved us,  
let us love one another.**

Leader: Beloved people of God:  
This is the day  
when Christ, our Passover Lamb,  
surrendered himself to those who would kill him,  
setting us free from sin and death forever.

**People: This is the day  
when Christ, our Teacher and Lord,  
knelt down to wash the disciples' feet,  
showing us how to love and serve one another.**

**All: This is the day  
when Christ, the bread of heaven,  
shared a meal with his followers,  
offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.**

Hymn

“Bless the Lord, My Soul” *Taizé*

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads us into life.**

Call to Confession

Pastor Héctor Herrera

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:  
while we were sinners, Christ died for us.  
Because we have faith in Christ,  
we dare to approach God with confidence.  
In faith and penitence  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken,  
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.  
Though you have bound yourself to us,  
we will not bind ourselves to you.  
In Jesus Christ you serve us freely,  
but we refuse your love  
and withhold ourselves from others.  
We do not love you fully  
or love one another as you command.  
In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.  
Lead us once again to your table  
and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life  
and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

*[Silence for personal reflection]*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Response

“What Wondrous Love is This”

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

## LISTEN TO THE LORD

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Prayer for Illumination

**Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit,  
you have given us a new commandment:  
to love and serve one another in Jesus' name.  
Let the good news of your liberating love  
be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

John 13:1-17, 31-35

Pew Bible, NT, p. 101

Homily

“For Example”

Pastor Steve Yamaguchi

Offering Ourselves to God

“If Ye Love Me” (by T. Tallis)

Sanctuary Choir

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

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Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving (Responsively)

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

[Sung Together]

*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*

[Spoken Together]

**God of grace, we give you thanks**

**for the feast of redemption we have shared**

**in the body and blood of our Savior.**

**We give you thanks for your great love for us**

**which you made known to us**

**by the gift of your own body and life.**

**As you have nourished us with love,**

**let our lives proclaim your great love for the world,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

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**A reading of Psalm 22,  
the scripture Jesus quoted  
as he hung on the cross**

Pastor Héctor Herrera

During the stripping of the altar, everything is removed from the table - candles, cross, and remains of the meal. This ancient act symbolizes that place in the drama of Easter when Christ is stripped of his power and glory and is in the hands of his captors.

This service adjourns in silence.

Feel free to remain and pray in silence.

You may depart at your own time.

There is no benediction tonight.  
The service continues on Good Friday.

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- † Good Friday Service: March 29 at 7:30 pm (In-Person & Livestream)  
† Easter Sunday Service: March 31 at 8:30 am Traditional (In-Person)  
10:00 am Gospel (In-Person)  
11:30 am Traditional (In-Person & Livestream)

**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Yamaguchi (pastor@tokyounion.org)  
**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Héctor Herrera (associatepastor@tokyounion.org)  
**Sanctuary Choir Director:** Yuka Omi  
**Organist:** Miwako Horii

## Tokyo Union Church

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E-mail: office@tokyounion.org <http://www.tokyounion.org> Office Hours: 10:00 am–4:00 pm (Mon.–Fri.)

TOKYO UNION CHURCH was founded in 1872 and is an ecumenical and international congregation of English-speaking Christians. The word "union" is used to indicate that the membership is composed of Christians from many churches and nationalities who are united through a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The members of Tokyo Union Church bring the richness of their own Christian heritage and experience into our worship, study, fellowship, and service. Tokyo Union Church is independent and financially self-supporting; it is a member of the National Christian Council of Japan. **Our Vision: A diverse community of growing, committed Christians in the heart of Tokyo, sharing the light of Christ with all nations.**

*US taxpayers can make tax deductible donations to TUC through the Tokyo Union Church Foundation, a US 501c(3) non-profit organization set up by TUC for that purpose.*