

# Grove Presbyterian Church

50 East Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen MD 21001 • 410-272-0896

grovechurch@gmail.com • <https://grovepc.org>

Rev. Dr. Harold J. Bennett II, Pastor

Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole, Pastor Emeritus



**Grove Presbyterian Church is a Christian fellowship brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship and serve God, to share our belief in Jesus Christ, and to reach out with love and understanding to all people.**

## **Maundy Thursday April 17, 2025**

Throughout the service, we will use the familiar music of “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” followed by times of silent reflection.

Chiming of the Hour

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather tonight to recall the story of the night Jesus was betrayed. Are you prepared to come to the feast of Jesus, the Christ, whose life was poured out for you?

**All: By the grace of God, we are.**

L: Are you able to watch with Jesus at prayer in the garden -- indeed, to struggle yourselves to be in unity with God's will for you?

**All: By the grace of God, we are.**

L: Then let us praise God, even in this hour of darkness.

**All: God of all grace and steadfast love, greatly is Your name to be praised in all the earth.**

**Bring us to this feast of remembrance with open hearts. Amen.**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God of Exodus and Resurrection, You have promised to write Your law on our hearts. As we hear the reading of Your Word, teach us Your law of love, that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, we may show forth the light of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Jesus gives a new commandment: John 13:1-5, 12-17**

### **Sing together:**

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

## **Time of Silence**

### **Jesus shares the Passover with His disciples: Matthew 26:17–25**

#### **Sing together:**

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.

## **Time of Silence**

### **Jesus shares the bread and the cup: Matthew 26:26–30**

#### **Sing together:**

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

## **Time of Silence**

**Scripture readings:** Leviticus 19:18, 1 Corinthians 13:1, John 15:12-17

**Homily**      No Greater Love

### **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

#### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All:** Eternal God, we give You thanks, for Your love marks the expanse of creation, Your justice stretches out into the farthest land, and Your peace makes all things complete. You are worthy of praise. Yet we fall short. We have stepped away from Your love. We have ignored Your call for justice. We have sowed conflict rather than peace. Yet You know no boundaries. Nothing we say or do can keep You away from us. Even amidst all our brokenness, You keep calling us back. Let this meal nourish us and strengthen us so that we may show Your love to the world. Amen.

#### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **The Sharing of the Cup**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**All:** Lord God of heaven and earth, by Your Spirit, make us one with Christ and one another, united in faith, hope, and love with all those who share this feast, as we reach out and serve the world with Your grace, mercy, and hope, until Jesus returns in glory. Amen.

**Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36–45**

**Sing together:**

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

**Time of Silence**

**Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested: Matthew 26:47–56**

**Sing together:**

To Christ, who won for sinners, grace, by bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race, forever and forevermore.

**Time of Silence**

**The bell tolls 33 times**

*Please remain silent as the adornments of the Sanctuary are removed and the cross is draped in black.*

**Special Music: Lamb of God**

*Please leave the Sanctuary in silence.*