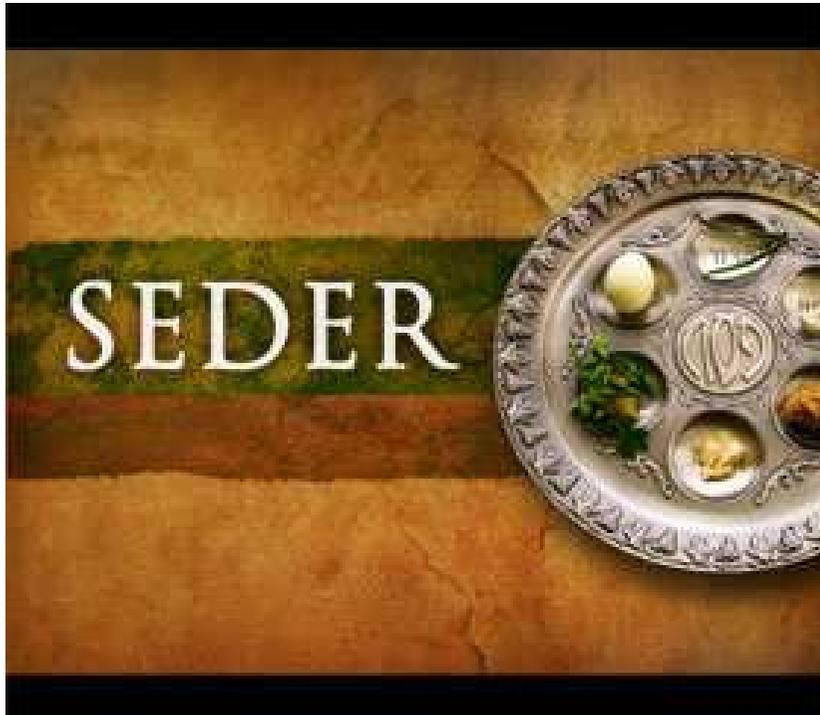


A Celebration of Christ's Last Supper



April 13, 2017
6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall
Bethpage Presbyterian Church
Kannapolis, North Carolina

Maundy Thursday
A Celebration of Christ's Last Supper
April 13, 2017 6:30 PM

Gathering at the Tables

(The congregation is seated at the tables in the fellowship hall.)

Introduction and Luke 22:7-16

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, "I have not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.

People: Tonight, let us join in his Passover Seder and see anew how Jesus fulfills all the promises God has made to us.

HYMN "Come, Share the Lord" (verses 1 & 2, page 9)

Lighting of the Festival Candles

(Each table should have: 1. One elder who will read the elder parts listed in the Hagaddah. (or what we call the bulletin) 2. One woman to light the candles. 3. One child or adult to hide the matzo and ask the four questions, later during the Passover story.)

Leader: Now in the presence of loved ones and friends, we gather to learn about the Passover.

All: As our scripture teaches us, "You shall keep the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, for on this day I brought you out of Egypt." (Ex. 12:17)

(A woman at each table lights the candles while everyone says . . .)

Women: We praise you, God, Lord of all life, as we light the candles of Passover.

Kiddush

The First Cup

(Everyone will now fill their cups ¼ way up with juice)

Leader: Our story tells us that God gave his people promises of freedom. With this cup we recall each of God's promises. Let us say the first promise together.

All: I AM the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of slavery to the Egyptians.

(At each table, everyone will pick up their glass of juice.)

Elder: We take the first cup and proclaim the holiness of this Day of Deliverance!

All: We praise you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustain us, and enable us to reach this season.

(All drink from the cup.)

HYMN

"Go Down Moses"

(page 9)

Urchatz

Washing of the Hands

Elder: We now wash our hands as a symbol of purification and preparation for this religious celebration.

(The Elder begins by taking the wash bowl and washing his/her hands. He/she will then pass the bowl and towel to the person to their right for the washing and drying of their hands.)

Reading from John 13:4-11

(During the washing of the hands)

Karpas

Rebirth and renewal

Elder: Passover brings the message of spring and new life. The parsley reminds us that our ancestors were tillers of the soil. The salt water reminds us of the tears of slavery.

(All take a sprig of parsley and dip it in the salt water – hold it now until we eat together.)

All: Praise you, O Lord our God, who causes fruit to grow from the earth.

(All eat the parsley.)

Yatchatz

A bond formed by sharing

(The Elders will break the middle matzo in half and all say;)

All: This is the bread of poverty. Let all who are hungry come and eat; let all who are needy come to the Passover feast. Now we are all still slaves. Next year we may be free.

(Any children at the table should cover their eyes while an adult hides the matzo somewhere VERY close by. If there are no children, choose an adult to hide the matzo while everyone else covers their eyes.)

The Passover Story
The Four Questions

Minister: Listen, now to our common story.

(At the end of the story of Passover each of the ten plagues will be read to remind us of God's faithful promise to deliver us.)

Anthem "Dayenu" (page 9)

Question #1

Children: Why do we eat matzo tonight?

Elders: We eat the Matzo to remember that when the Israelites left Egypt they could not wait for the breads to rise so they took a flat bread called matzo.

Question #2

Children: Why do we eat bitter herbs on Passover night?

Elders: We eat bitter herbs to remind us of how bitter life is for people caught in slavery, especially slavery to sin.

Question #3

Children: Why do we dip the herbs twice tonight?

Elders: We dip the parsley in salt water, and eat radishes with sweet apple to sweeten the bitterness of sin and the suffering it causes us.

Question #4

Children: Why is this meal different from all other meals?

Elders: Tonight we celebrate freedom. We are grateful for God's mighty acts: splitting the Red Sea for us, sustaining us in the wilderness, giving us the ten commandments and bringing us to Israel.

Leader: Tonight we celebrate the ultimate freedom God offers us in Jesus Christ.

Matzi, Matzo, Maror

Unleavened Bread and Bitter Herbs

Leader: The three most important symbols of the Passover meal are the Pascal lamb, the unleavened bread, and the bitter herbs.

(One elder will hold up a shank bone saying:)

Elder: This bone reminds us that the Lord passed over our homes marked with the **blood of the Lamb**.

(One elder holds up the 1st matzo saying:)

Elder: This is the unleavened bread that our ancestors ate during their departure from Egypt, for in their haste they could not wait for the dough to rise.

(The table elder distributes the Matzo, two pieces to each person.)

(Holding up the radish, one elder says:)

Elder: The radish, or maror, reminds us that the lives of our ancestors in Egypt were made bitter with slavery and hard service.

(The table elder passes a piece of radish to all.)

Elder: The bitterness of slavery was sweetened by God's redemption of a chosen people. *Charoses* is a mixture of sweet apples and nuts as a reminder of the hope given to us by God.

(According to ancient tradition, the people put the radish and the charoses between the two pieces of matzo and eat it like a sandwich)

Kos G'ulah
The Cup of Deliverance

(The Elders will fill each glass 1/4 full a second time)

Minister: I lift the second cup, and with this we shall recall God's second promise, "I will free you from your slavery."

All: Remembering with gratitude, we praise you, O God, Redeemer of Israel! Thank you for declaring us righteous and delivering us from your judgment and wrath.

Leader: Truly Jesus is the fulfillment of this cup, for he is our eternal deliverer.

(All drink from the cup, draining it.)

Tzofun
The search for the hidden

(The person/child who read the four questions should look for the hidden matzo and hand it to the elder at his/her table. They'll receive a gold coin of praise.)

Minister: And when Jesus was at Table with his disciples he took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it . . .

(The Elder from your table will break the hidden bread and serve each person. Please, wait to eat it . . .)

Minister continues . . . and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat, this is my body broken for you." *Reading Luke 22:19*

The Blessing

ALL: We praise you God whose bounty we have partaken. Through the Lord's kindness, mercy, and compassion all of our lives are sustained. God, you are always faithful. We praise you because in your faithfulness, the One we have waited for, the very Messiah, Jesus Christ redeems all who believe.

Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: and also with you.

Boraych
The Cup of Redemption

(The Elders will fill each glass 1/4 full a third time)

Elders: Together let us take up the cup, now recalling the third promise from God. As it is written, "I will redeem you with an out stretched arm."

Minister: "Then Jesus took the cup (of redemption) and after giving thanks he gave it to his disciples saying," Drink from it all of you; for this is the blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin." (Matthew 26:27-28)

(All drink from the cup, draining it.)

Closing Psalms of Praise # 118

Minister: Jesus would have led a Psalm of praise, like Psalm 118 at the end of the Passover feast, "O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

HYMN

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

(page 10)

The Cup of Praise
The Cup of the Kingdom

(The Elders will fill the cups ¼ way – one last time)

Raising each cup all read

All: We thank you God that you have answered us and have become our salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(All drink the last cup of juice – draining it all.)

Anthem

“What Wondrous Love”

(page 10)

Reading from Matthew 26:29-36a

A Time of Meditation

“Gethsemane”

Getty/Townend

Benediction

“Come Share the Lord”

1. We gather here in Jesus’ name; His love is burning in our hearts like living flame, For though the loving Son, The Father makes us one: Come, take the bread; come, drink the cup; come, share the Lord.
2. He joins us here; He breaks the bread. The Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead. The one we love the most is now our gracious host: Come take the bread; come, drink the cup; come, share the Lord.

“Go Down Moses”

When Israel was in Egypt’s land
Let my people go
Oppress’d so hard they could not stand
Let my People go

Refrain:

Go down, Moses
Way down in Egypt’s land
Tell old Pharaoh
Let my people go

“Dayenu”

“It would have been enough”

Da-dayenu, da-dayenu, da-dayenu, da-dayenu, da-dayenu, da-dayenu,

Da-dayenu, Da-dayenu, Da-dayenu, Dayenu, dayenu!

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

1. All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.
2. The Lord, ye know, is god indeed; without our aid He did us make. We are his flock; He doth us feed, and for His sheep he doth us take.
3. O enter then His gates with praise, Approach with joy His courts unto; Praise, laud, and bless His name always, for it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? The Lord our God is good, His mercy is forever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.
5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore, from earth and from the angel host, be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

“What Wondrous Love”

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 dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great, I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

Schedule of other Holy Week and Easter Services at Bethpage Presbyterian Church

***Please, bring a friend, especially one who does not have a
church home!***

***April 14th
Good Friday Tenebrae.....7:00 PM in the Sanctuary***

***April 16th
Easter Sunrise Service..... 6:50 AM in the cemetery***

Easter Service..... 9:55 AM in the Sanctuary

Bethpage Presbyterian Church

***“A family of faith
yesterday, today, and tomorrow.”***

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Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner:
704-431-3700 (cell) 704-934-3457 (home)**