

Wednesday, April 9th, 2025

COMBINED LENTEN SERVICE – 7:00 PM



March 12th — Port Edwards UMC — 7:00 PM
March 19th — Nekoosa UCC — 7:00 PM
March 26th — Port Edwards UMC — 7:00 PM
April 2nd — Nekoosa UCC — 7:00 PM
April 9th — Port Edwards UMC — 7:00 PM
April 17th – Maundy Thursday – Nekoosa UCC – 7:00 PM
April 18th – Good Friday – services held separately



Musician: Judy Miller Media Technician: Colby Grunden
Greeter: Sue Mitchell Usher: Becky Taylor Liturgist:

Tonight's service is led by Pastor Caleb McGregor.

Pastor Wanda lives at a distance and cannot attend all weekday services. She sends her regards.

OFFERING TONIGHT

(place any donations in the wooden box as you leave the service tonight)

Donations tonight will go to FOCUS Food Pantry in Rapids.

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### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: We are God's people, the Chosen of the Lord,  
born of the Spirit, established by the Word.

**P: Our Cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand;**

**O let us share each joy & care and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.**

L: God wills us be a family diverse, yet truly one;

O let us give our gifts to God and so shall God's work on earth be done.

**P: For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;**

**now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given.**

L: We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire;

**ALL: yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth & light and to inspire.**

*["We Are God's People," TFWS 2220; Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, © 1976 Fred Bock Music Co.]*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**ALL: God of Families, some formed by water and others by blood:**

**We gather in Your presence tonight**

**filled with gratitude for Your boundless love and grace!**

**Just as Mary poured out her precious oil in devotion to Jesus,**

**so we long to offer our lives to You as a holy and living sacrifice,**

**giving You our hearts without reservation.**

**Help us to cherish each moment we have with You, as Mary cherished hers,**

**and may our lives reflect the beautiful fragrance**

**of love, humility, and service that glorifies Your name.**

**As we enter this time of worship,**

**prepare our hearts to receive Your Word with open minds & eager spirits.**

**May what we say and think be as sweet perfume before You,**

**and may what we do reflect the sacrificial love of Christ.**

**In the precious name of Jesus, our Chosen & Holy Brother: AMEN!**

**\*OPENING HYMNS:**            *O How He Loves You and Me*            lyrics below

**🎵 Vs. 1: O how He loves you and me! O how He loves you and me!**

**He gave His life. What more could He give?**

**O how He loves you! O how He loves me! O how He loves you and me!**

**Vs. 2: Jesus to Calv'ry did go. His love for sinners to show.**

**What He did there brought hope from despair.**

**O how He loves you! O how He loves me! O how He loves you and me! 🎵**

*[Words & Music: Kurt Kaiser (1 John 3:1) © 1975 Word Music, Inc.]*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*John 12:1-8*

*L: God is still speaking!*

**ALL: Today, we shall listen! Amen!**

**🎵 Something beautiful! Something good!**

**All my confusion – He understood!**

**All I had to offer Him – was brokenness & strife.**

**But He made something beautiful of my life! 🎵**

*“How can you anoint Jesus today?”*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL**: Merciful God, in the story of Mary anointing Jesus,  
we see an act of pure devotion,  
yet we confess that we have often failed to love You  
with such wholeheartedness as she.

We are distracted by the things of this world,  
clinging to possessions and pride  
instead of surrendering our hearts fully to You.

In our story tonight, Jesus spent His last days with His Chosen Family,  
and has called upon us to be that to others,  
yet we confess that we specialize more in family drama and dysfunction  
rather than in drawing the family circle wide.

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have judged others,  
as Judas judged Mary, focusing on what we perceive as waste  
rather than seeing the beauty in acts of love and worship.

We confess that, because of how poorly we live our lives together,  
the poor, indeed, will always be with us.

Renew our hearts, that we may glorify You in all that we do.

Forgive us and restore us!

We pray these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who is our Savior and Redeemer: AMEN!

*[MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION & CONFESSION]*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

*L: Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ:*

Tonight, we have seen the depth of Christ's love  
and His journey toward the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

We are reminded that God's grace is abundant  
and God's mercy endures forever!

**ALL**: In His name, we are all a forgiven people! Glory to God! AMEN!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(each time):* L: Jesus our Savior, hear our prayers,

**ALL**: and may our devotion be like perfume in this world.

*(1) for the Body of Christ (church around the world)*

*(2) for the world and world leaders*

*(3) for our nation and our national leaders*

*(4) for our state, our leaders, and the environment*

*(5) for our neighborhoods and our local churches*


*(6) for those in need of prayer.*

*(7) for ourselves.*


**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

*The Family of God*

lyrics below

 **Chorus: I'm so glad I'm a part of the Fam'ly of God,  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
for I'm part of the family, the Fam'ly of God!**

**Vs. 1: You will notice – we say, “*Brother – and sister*” ’round here –  
it’s because we’re a family – and these folks are so near;  
when one – has a heartache – we all – share the tears,  
and rejoice – in each victory – in this Fam’ly so dear! (*chorus*)**

**Vs 2: From the door – of an orph’nage – to the house of – a king,  
no – longer – an outcast, a new song I sing;  
from rags – unto riches, from the weak – to the strong,  
I’m not worthy – to be here, but praise God, I belong! (*chorus*) **  
*[Words & Music: Gloria & William J. Gaither, © 1970 by William J. Gaither]*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**REFRESHMENTS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**TONIGHT’S TABLE QUESTIONS BASED ON “HOSPITALITY & DISCIPLESHP: JOHN 12”**

1. Have you ever felt the loneliness of needing a place that feels like home and family?  
How do you think Jesus felt coming to dinner at His friends’ house?
2. What comes to your mind when you think of “anointing”? Do you see Mary’s action of  
pouring the oil on Jesus’ feet as a form of “anointing”? Why do you think she did this?
3. Jesus hosted His Last Supper and then washed His disciples’ feet. How would you feel if  
Jesus hosted a dinner for *you* and then washed *your* feet? How is this like partaking in Holy  
Communion?
4. How is the church like a “chosen family”? Have you witnessed the church being  
someone’s only family? What do you think about the saying “the blood of the covenant is  
thicker than the water of the womb?”

**HOLY WEEK:**

**Live Last Supper Service**

Marshfield Wesley United Methodist Church

(211 S. Maple Avenue, Marshfield, WI)

Mon., April 14<sup>th</sup> – 7-8 PM / Wed., April 16<sup>th</sup> – 7-8 PM

(*we’d like to take a group on Mon.*) No admission or tickets needed.

**NO WEDNESDAY SERVICE NEXT WEEK.**

**Maundy Thursday – 7-8 PM @ Nekoosa UCC**

**Good Friday – held at both churches separately**