



Welcome to those who have worshipped in this place for years.  
Welcome to our first time guests.  
Welcome to all generations, families, single people and couples.  
Welcome to those who have no church home, need strength, have doubt, want to follow Christ or do not believe.

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor - Michael Yeoman 315-761-2721  
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Choir Director - Barb Seaton 315-225-9452

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Office Secretary - John Merritt 315-527-2939

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**304 Broad Street**  
(corner of Broad and Stone)  
**Oneida, NY 13421**

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Phone: 315-363-7590

#### **HOURS:**

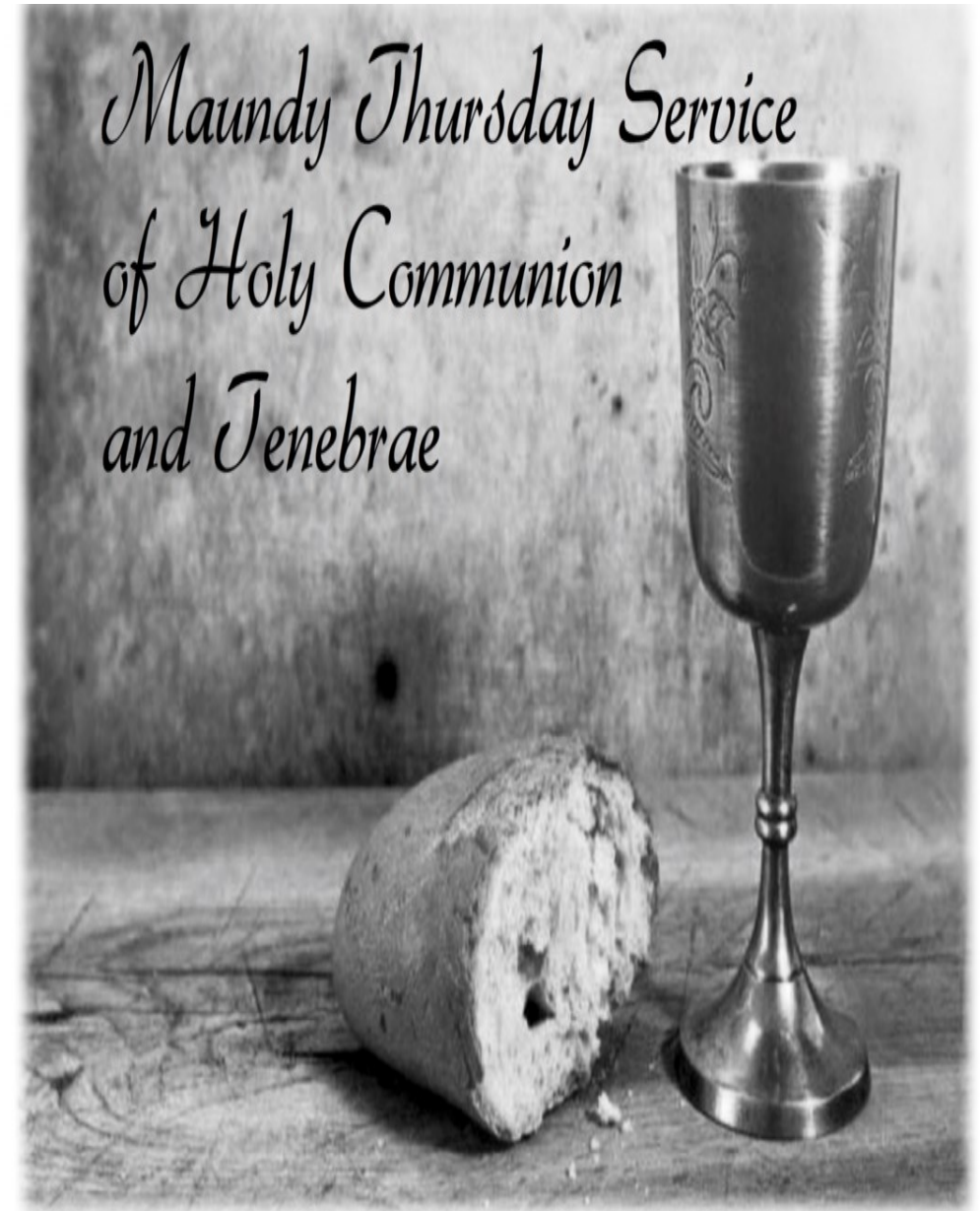
Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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## The Church At Worship

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ONEIDA

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17, 2025 6:30 PM

Pastor Michael Yeoman  
Barb Seaton, Choir Director and Reader  
Brian Snyder, Organist  
Pat Thorpe, Elder Serving Communion

*Please Enter in Silent Meditation*

PRELUDE                    *“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”*                    Arr. by Mary Ann Fritz

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Tonight, we gather in the shadow of the cross, to remember the night Jesus was betrayed, to sit at the table with Him once more, to hear His command to love as He has loved us.

*People: We come with hearts open to the mystery of this night— where light fades into darkness, and love bears the weight of the world.*

Leader: This is a night of remembrance, of bread broken and a cup poured, of feet washed and prayers lifted.

*People: We come to watch and pray, to walk with Jesus through the night, to be present in His suffering, and to await the dawn of hope.*

Leader: Come, let us worship in reverence and wonder. Let us enter the story once again,  
and behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

*All: We worship the One who gave Himself for us. We follow Him into the shadows, trusting in the light that is yet to come.*

INTROIT                    *“May the Love of the Lord”*                    (Ling/Lim)

### Litany

Leader: We bring to the cross...

*People: our awareness of violence in ourselves and the world.*

Leader: We bring to the cross...

*People: our fears and worries that can diminish our faith*

Leader: We bring to the cross...

*People: our judgment and hatred of others.*

Leader: In the cross, we see an end,

*People: but also, a doorway to a new beginning with God*

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The last part of today’s service takes us to a place of deep reflection and silence. **You are invited** to approach the cross, and then either hammer your nail into the cross or set the nail at the foot of the cross. At the cross, place your fears, your worries, your pains, your hopes and your sins at – that cross where Jesus bore our sins through crucifixion, so that we might die to sin and death. Christ died for sinners. He died for people who had lost their way.

Come to the cross upon which Jesus suffered for all of us. He did not die because it was forced upon him. It was a choice. A choice made in love.



Reading 7 - Mark 15:21-40    *“The Crucifixion & Death of Jesus”*    NT Page 50

*Extinguishing of the Seventh Candle*

**\*\* There will be no words spoken after Reading 7 \*\***

### DARKNESS

### STRIPPING OF THE ALTER

The liturgical altar drapery and communion table coverings are stripped — symbolic of Christ's arrest into the hands of his captors and being stripped of his glory. When the altar is bare, you may remain for quiet prayer and meditation, but please exit the church in silence. No benediction is given, until we come together on Easter morning as we celebrate our Savior’s victory over death.



**COMMUNION ANTHEM***“In Remembrance”***(Red & Courtney)****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. In this sacred meal, we have shared in the body and blood of Christ, remembering his great love poured out for the world.

As we rise from this table, may we go forth in the strength of your Spirit— to love as Christ has loved us, to serve as he served, and to walk in the way of the cross with humility and hope.

In the shadow of Gethsemane, give us courage. In the silence of betrayal, teach us to remain faithful. And in the waiting of these holy days, keep us near to Jesus, our Savior and our Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN** **”Go to Dark Gethsemane”** **#97**



**Reading 4 - Mark 14:32-51** **“Jesus Prays in Gethsemane”** **NT Page 49**  
*Extinguishing of the Fourth Candle*



**Reading 5 - Mark 14:66-72** **“Peter Denies Jesus”** **NT Page 50**  
*Extinguishing of the Fifth Candle*



**Reading 6 - Mark 15:1-15** **“Jesus Before Pilate”** **NT Page 50**  
*Extinguishing of the Sixth Candle*

**\*HYMN** **“Were You There?”** **#10**

**RITUAL OF THE CROSS**

Take the **NAIL** you were given at the beginning of worship and hold it. As you feel it between your fingers, reflect on when you have felt hurt, when you have had trials and challenges. Reflect on everything that worries you tonight. Feel God’s presence with you as you embrace this time of reflection.

**\*APPROACHING THE CROSS**

On this darkest of days, we remember the death of Jesus of Nazareth. Confessing our participation today in the sin of this world, we come forward to the cross. We are invited to place our fears and judgments, our guilt and our worries, at the foot of the cross. We are promised forgiveness and hope. As we prepare to approach the cross with our burdens and hopes, join me in this responsive reading:

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, we give you thanks this night for the privilege of gathering together to remember, to celebrate, and to share. We give you thanks for the journey we have been on with you—from manger to Temple, from Egypt to Galilee, from darkness to light. Tonight, we feast, as you did on a night like this so long ago, remembering your promises, your mighty deeds, your rescue of your people, your saving grace. As we share this meal tonight, make us mindful of those who are hungry. As we celebrate together, make us mindful of those who sorrow and those who are alone. As we remember once again all you have done and all that you are, form us once again into your people.



**Reading 1 -** **John 13:31-38** **“The Shadow of Prediction”** **NT 102**

*Extinguishing of the First Candle*

**\*HYMN** **“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”** **#94**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

On this night, when Jesus knelt to serve, we recall how often we have turned away from love.

When He broke bread with the one who would betray Him, we remember our own betrayals, spoken and silent, known and hidden. Let us come before God with honesty, trusting in mercy deeper than our failure and love stronger than death.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Merciful God, on this night, we confess the ways we have failed to love— You, our neighbors, and even ourselves. We have denied You in the silence of our hearts, betrayed You in selfish choices, and abandoned You when the path grew dark. We have resisted Your call to serve and ignored the pain of others.*

*Forgive us, Lord. Wash us clean. Renew in us a heart like Yours— humble, faithful, and full of compassion. As You knelt to wash feet, kneel now beside us in grace. Restore us, that we might love one another as You have loved us.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## \*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Even in the gathering shadows, God's grace shines clear. Even in betrayal, Christ offers forgiveness. Even at the table with sinners, Love is poured out. Friends, hear and believe this good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—cleansed, renewed, and called again to walk in the way of love.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI                    *“Glory Be to the Father”*                    #579



**Reading 2 - Mark 14:10-21**    *“The Passover with the Disciples”*    NT 48

*Extinguishing of the Second Candle*



**Reading 3 - Mark 14:22-31**    *“The Institution of the Lord's Supper”*    NT 48

*Extinguishing of the Third Candle*

ANTHEM                    *“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”*                    (Bach)

## **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you

*All: And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

*All: We lift them to the Lord.*

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

*All: It is right to give our thanks and praise*

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy..... (continued) You spoke through prophets calling us to turn from our willful ways to new obedience and righteousness. You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life.....

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name.

*All: “Sanctus”*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt... (continued) ,, Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Pastor: Praise to you, Lord Jesus

*All: Dying you destroyed our death.*

*Rising you restored our life.*

*Lord Jesus come in glory.*

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the Living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord Jesus on the night of his arrest took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

The blood of Christ - The cup of salvation. **(The juice is consumed at this time)**

Every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes in glory.