

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

## THE SEDER MEAL CEREMONY

Maundy Thursday - March 24, 2016

**Prelude:** *Nocturne No. 3 in C Minor*

Cynthia Dobrinski

### I - KINDLING OF THE FESTIVAL LIGHTS

*Symbolizing the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the World*

The Lighting of the Candle. (All stand)

#### **Mother's Prayer:**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast sanctified us by Thy commandments and commanded us to kindle the festival lights. Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this season. May our home be consecrated, O God, by the Light of Thy countenance, shining upon us in blessing and bringing us peace.

**All: Amen.** (Be Seated)

### II - KIDDUSH

*The Cup of Thanksgiving - Blessing of the Feast*

#### **Father's Prayer:**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who hast chosen us above all peoples, and hast exalted us above all tongues, and hast hallowed us with Thy commandments. In love hast Thou given us, O Lord our God, seasons for gladness, holy-days, and times for rejoicing, this day of the feast of the unleavened bread, the time of our freedom, an assembly day of holiness, a memorial to the Exodus from Egypt. For Thou hast chosen us and hast sanctified us above all peoples, and Thou hast given us Thy sacred seasons for our inheritance. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Who dost sanctify Israel and the festivals.

*Everyone lifts a glass of wine\* or grape juice, and the people say,*

**Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who dost create the fruit of the vine.**

*All drink.*

#### **Father:**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who hast hallowed us with Thy commandments and hast commanded us concerning the washing of hands.

**All:**

**Blessed are Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who dost create the fruit of the soil.**

#### **Father:**

Behold! This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in want come and celebrate the Passover with us. May it be God's will to redeem us from all evil and from all slavery.

### III - HAGGADAH

*Telling, instruction - Story of deliverance from Egypt, Exodus 13:8*

#### The Child:

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread. Why on this night do we eat only unleavened bread?

On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs. Why on this night do we eat especially bitter herbs?

On all other nights we do not dip herbs in any condiment. Why on this night do we dip them in salt water and haroses?

On all other nights we eat without special festivities. Why on this night do we hold this Passover service?

*Ballad of the Four Sons*

Traditional

**Said the father to his children, “At the Seder you will dine, you will eat your fill of matzah, you will drink four cups of wine.” Now this father had no daughters, but his sons, they numbered four. One was wise, and one was wicked, one was simple, and a bore. And the fourth was sweet and winsome, he was young, and he was small.**

**While his brothers asked the questions, he could scarcely speak at all. Said the wise son to this father,**

**“Would you please explain the laws, of the customs of the Seder; will you please explain the cause?”**

**And the father proudly answered, “As our fathers ate in speed, ate the Paschal lamb ‘ere midnight, and from slavery were freed.” “So we follow their example, and ‘ere midnight must complete all the Seder, and we should not, after twelve remain to eat.” Then did sneer the son so wicked, “What does all this mean to you?” And the father’s voice was bitter, as his grief and anger grew. “If yourself you don’t consider as a son of Israel, then for you this has no meaning, you could be a slave as well.” Then the simple son said softly, “What is this?”**

**and quietly, the good father told his offspring “We were freed from slavery.” But the youngest son was silent,**

**for he could not ask at all. And his eyes were bright with wonder, as his father told him all.**

**Now, dear children, heed the lesson, and remember ever more what the father told his children, told his sons that numbered four.**

#### The Reading:

**Exodus 12:14-27**

#### Child:

What is the meaning of pesach?

#### Father:

Pesach means the paschal lamb which our forefathers sacrificed to the Lord in memory of that night when the Holy One passed over the houses of our fathers in Egypt, as it is written: “When your children shall say to you: What is the meaning of this service? You shall say to them: It is the victim of the passage of the Lord, when He passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, striking the Egyptians, and saving our houses.”

*Go Down, Moses!*

Traditional Spiritual

Leader: When Israel was in Egypt land, **People: “Let my people go!”** Leader: Oppressed so hard they could not stand.

**People: “Let my people go!” Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land. Tell old Pharaoh “Let my people go!”**

#### Child:

What is the meaning of matzoh?

#### Father:

This is the bread of affliction which our fathers took with them out of Egypt as it is written: “And they baked the meal, which a little before they had brought out of Egypt, in dough: and they made earth cakes unleavened: for it could not be leavened, the Egyptians pressing them to depart, and not suffering them to make any stay: neither did they think of preparing any meat.” (Exodus 12:39.)

#### Child:

What is the meaning of moror?

#### Father:

Moror means bitter herb. We eat moror to recall that the Egyptians embittered the lives of our fathers, as it is written: “And the Egyptians hated the children of Israel, and afflicted them and mocked them: And they made their life bitter with hard works in clay, and brick, and with all manner of service wherewith they were overcharged in the works of the earth.” (Exodus 1:13-14.)

### IV - HALLEL PSALM

*Thanksgiving for deliverance from Egypt*

#### Father:

In every generation each one ought to regard himself as though he had personally come out of Egypt, as it is written: “And thou shalt tell thy son in that day, saying: This is what the Lord did to me when I came forth out of Egypt.” (Exodus 13:8)

Therefore, it is our duty to thank, praise, laud, glorify, extol, bless, exalt and adore Him Who did all of these miracles for our fathers and for ourselves. He has brought us forth from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, from mourning to festive day, from darkness to a great light, and from subjection to redemption. Let us then recite before Him a new song.

#### Psalm 114

*(English Translation)*

When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became God’s sanctuary, Israel his dominion. The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs? Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

### V. THE SOLEMN BLESSING OF THE FOOD

#### Father:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who hast redeemed us and hast redeemed our fathers from Egypt, and has permitted us to live unto this night, to partake on it of the unleavened bread and the bitter herbs.

So may the Lord our God and the God of our fathers, permit us to live unto other festive seasons and holy days.

May Thy will be done through Jacob, Thy chosen servant, so that Thy name shall be sanctified in the midst of all the earth, and that all peoples be moved to worship Thee with one accord.

And we shall sing new songs of praise unto Thee, for our redemption and for the deliverance of our souls. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, who dost redeem Israel.

#### All:

**Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who dost create the fruit of the vine.**

#### Father:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who dost bring forth bread from the earth.

**All:**

**Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who hast sanctified us by Thy commandments and hast commanded us concerning the eating of unleavened bread.**

**Father:**

Let us combine the unleavened bread and the bitter herbs, as it is written: "With unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it."

**All:**

**Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who hast sanctified us by Thy commandments and hast commanded us concerning the eating of bitter herbs.**

*Eliyahu, Hanavi*

Traditional Folk Song  
*(English Translation)*

Elijah the prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, Elijah the Giladite.  
May he soon (in our days) come to us, with the messiah son of David.

**The New Testament Reading**

John 13:31-35

**The Meditation: "The New Commandment"**

Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

**Musical Reflection:** *Love Bade Me Welcome*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin but quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, if I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd worthy to be here: Love said, you shall be he. I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame go where it doth deserve. And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat: so I did sit and eat.

*Andrew Wannigman, Baritone; Dr. Sallie Pollack, Piano*

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Closing Hymn:** *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power; your Redeemer's conflict see;  
watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned; O the wormwood and the gall!**

**O the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;**

**learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet, mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete; "It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**Benediction**

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**Leading in Worship**

**Pastor/Head of Staff:** Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

**Associate Pastor for Congregational Care:** Rev. Michelle Junkin

**Associate Pastor for Youth and Education:** Rev. Abbey Walker

**Cantor:** Colman Reaboi, Leslie Perkel

**Director of Worship and Music:** Josh Phelps

**Piano:** Steve Thompson

**Role of Mother:** Shawn Witcher

**Role of Father:** Jim Witcher

**Role of Child:** Amira Junkin