



March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday Service
featuring “The Portrayal”
7:30 p.m.

St. John's
United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark OH, 43055



Main: 740-323-2407
Church Website
www.stjohnsnewark.org

***Prayer of Invocation**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God of mercy, we gather in awesome wonder to behold your loving gift of Jesus Christ, who, coming to bring the world to wholeness, was broken by it. Yet by his death, we live and know your unbreakable love. As we gather to remember Christ's gift of fellowship at the table, and to recall our frail failings of devotion, pierce our hearts with a conviction of our own betrayals, reassure us of your abiding presence and transform us by the Spirit of Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

****The Lord's Prayer - Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

***Prayer of Confession**

Elaine Kopke Gard

Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting your sacrifice and for thinking your grace is cheap. Forgive us, Lord, for using the cross as a trinket, forgetting the agony it represents. Forgive us, Lord, for taking our worship for granted, forgetting the struggle that has assured its freedom. Forgive us, Lord, for being calloused to human cruelty, forgetting that every victim is a creature of God. Forgive us, Lord, for being nonchalant about injustice, forgetting that it still nails innocence to the cross. Forgive us, Lord, for thinking that sacrifice is obsolete, forgetting that we still contend against the powers of darkness. Receive our prayers offered in humility, as we remember and honor Christ our Lord, who prays for us still. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

The Last Supper Portrayal

The Setting: The Upper Room as the Disciples arrive for the celebration of the Passover Seder. The mood is relaxed. The Disciples are anticipating the great joy of recalling the independence of the Hebrew People. *(Silence)*

Invitation

Elaine Kopke Gard

Communion Prayer

All: God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion - You will be invited to come forward by pew. Please come down the center aisle to receive the bread and the cup, and return to your pew down the side aisle. There will be receptacles for the cups as you leave. If you are not able to come forward, communion will be brought to you. Simply raise your hand when the usher approaches.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may show forth in our lives the fruit of your redemption, for you are alive and reign, now and forever.

*Benediction

*Postlude

“Jesus Paid It All” Hall

Todd Baldosser

*The offering will be taken in support of the Licking County Food Pantry.
If you would like to leave an offering, there are plates at each entrance to the church.*

CAST AND CREW

Our thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and effort in presenting
“The Portrayal” to our members and guests.

BARTHOLOMEW - Greg Crowthers

JAMES, the lesser - Dick Tulloss

ANDREW - Matthew Kroah

JUDAS - Charles Mays

PETER - Karson Ewing

JOHN - Ken Kroah

JAMES, the elder - Jeremy Hill

THOMAS - Brad Beck

PHILIP - Jeff Conner

MATTHEW - Terry Gano

THADDEUS - Mike Dooley

SIMEON - Brian Lensink

Narrator - Kirk Homrighouse

Director – Christian Education Committee

Set-Up & Tear Down Crew – All Cast and Crew

Lighting - Bill McInturf and Frances Hill

Beards & Make-up - Beth Powers, April Kinser, Kayden Ewing

Table Set Up - Elaine Gard

Costumes - Frances Hill

Music - Todd Baldosser

Cast Dinner - Tim Powers - Special Events

Ushers – Barry Dooley, Charles Dudley, Kayden Ewing, Pat Farley

Advertising/Sound- Julie Kroah

Pictures – Pamela Tulloss

Publication – Anita Chirdon

<p>Please pick up meditation material for Good Friday and Holy Saturday on the tables at both exits.</p>
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“The Last Supper”

The saddest face in the history of art is the face of Jesus as He says “One among you shall betray me.” His disciples upon hearing what He said are talking among themselves.

Bartholomew, with inclined body and feet crossed, stares incredulously as he springs to his feet in amazement trying to hear what John will ask of the Lord.

James, the lesser, is stretching out his hand to Peter, as though to ask, “Can this be so?”

Andrew, one of the first to follow Jesus and known as a genial and modest man, is so over-awed by such wickedness, he protests with up-turned hands expressing his horror of the news as he shrinks from Judas.

Judas, looking up with terrified countenance, leans over the table, tightly clutching the money-bag in his right hand, while with the left he makes an involuntary nervous motion as if to say, “What may this mean?” His face shows a startled fear and he is smitten by a guilty conscience as he recoils from the Master. For the first time he has discovered himself to be the evil principle in opposition to the good.

Peter, brother of Andrew and referred to as “The Rock,” rises suddenly in conformity with his vehement character and places his hand on John’s shoulder, seeming to say, “Ask Him, which one is it?” Tell us who it is of whom He speaketh.” He is ready to seek vengeance on the traitor. The handle of a knife held in his right hand touched Judas which caused the terrified forward movement upsetting the salt-cellar, so clearly portrayed.

John, the beloved and youngest of the group, brother of James the greater, is in great distress and all but overcome as with eyes closed he sinks back toward Peter. Jesus entrusted his mother into John’s care at the time of the Crucifixion.

James, the elder, known as the “Son of Thunder,” gazes transfixed with outspread arms as with horror he starts back in terror like one who imagines that he beholds with his eyes what ears have heard.

On the left of James is Thomas, who was little known in the Bible, and who does not believe what Christ says. He raises his finger inquiringly as though he doubts Jesus’ word, thus he becomes known as doubting Thomas.” His later teaching had a part in the founding of Missions of China and Asia.

Phillip, young, mild mannered and demure, asserts his innocence by bending forward with his hands crossed upon his breast and saying with great clearness, “It is not I, Lord! Thou knowest my pure heart. It is not I!”

The last three figures are discussing the terrible news: Matthew, a tax collector, who left his duties in a custom house to become a follower of Christ, turns his face inquiringly to his companions on the left and stretching out his hands, pointing accusingly toward Judas as though to say, "He is the one."

Thaddeus (Jude), about whom little is known but whose name means dear or beloved, is showing the utmost surprise, doubt and suspicion. His left hand rests on the table while he has raised the right as if he intends to strike his left hand with the back of his right. Lorenzo Ferri, sculptor, and painter in Rome, says he is convinced that the painting of "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci contains a self-portrait of the artist, for a careful reconstruction of the lines in the features of Thaddeus reveals that these features match Leonardo's well known self-portrait.

Simeon, the eldest of the group, sits at the end of the table with great dignity though his face shows he is troubled and thoughtful as does also his gesture. He is a lawyer and very zealous for the law.

The Price They Paid

BARTHOLOMEW was flayed to death with a knife which became a symbol of his martyrdom.

JAMES, the lesser, was crucified in Egypt and his body sawn asunder. He is often symbolized by the "saw."

ANDREW was martyred in Greece by crucifixion on an x-shaped cross, which is now called St. Andrew's Cross.

JUDAS took his own life by hanging.

PETER'S death is believed to have been in Rome, 68 A.D., where he was crucified head-down by order of Nero.

JOHN is considered the only Apostle who died a natural death rather than be martyred.

JAMES, the elder, was the first apostle to be martyred and the only one whose death was recorded in the New Testament. He was beheaded by the sword. (Acts)

THOMAS was martyred by a shower of arrows as he prayed.

PHILIP is often symbolized by the inverted cross as he was crucified upside down.

MATTHEW was martyred in Ethiopia. Details of his death are unknown.

THADDEUS was martyred in Persia. Details are unknown.

SIMEON was crucified.

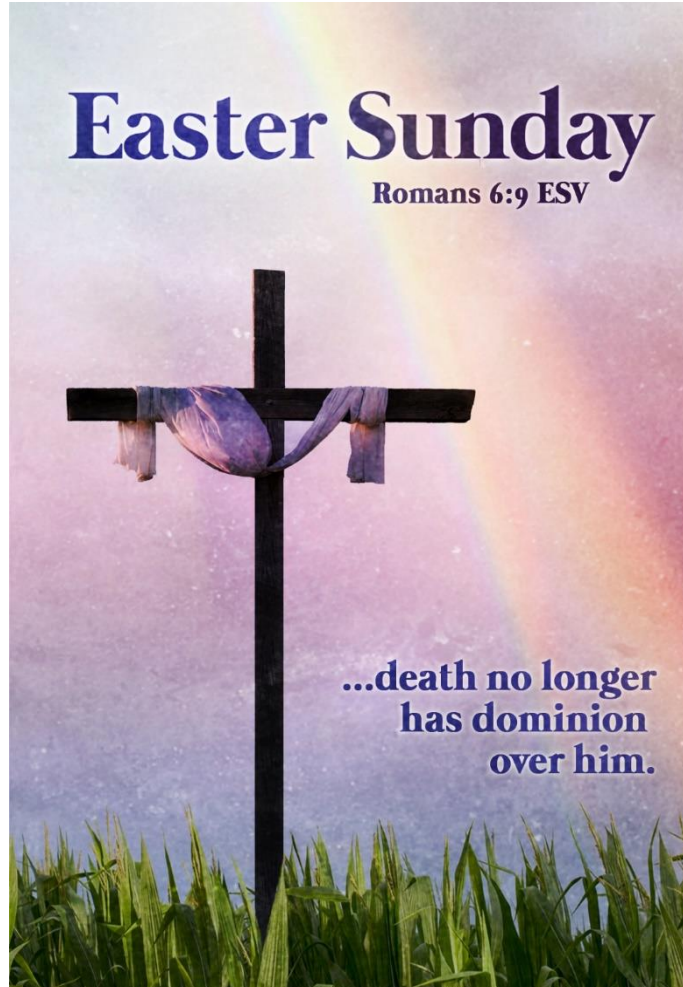
We invite you to attend the following:

March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Outdoor Service (*stay in your car*)

7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Easter Morning Breakfast -Free will offering

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service



The Youth of St. John's presents



**Easter
Breakfast**

Sunday March 31

Serving 7:30am – 10:30am

