



MAUNDY *Thursday*

April 1, 2021

7 pm

The word "Maundy" derives from the Latin *mandatum novum* or "a new commandment." (John 13:34)

Prelude

Wondrous Grace
Lynn Liepold, piano

Mary Ann Fritz

Invitation

Gathering Hymn

Gathered Here

Phil Porter

Please join in singing three times.

Gath - ered here in the mys - tery of this hour, gath - ered here in one strong bod - y,
gath - ered here in the strug - gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

Scripture

John 13:1-20

Handwashing

Scripture

Luke 22:14-20

One: May these words be to us our light and our life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Response

Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator/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 sins, as we
forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Music

Across the Empty Square

Ellen Gilson Voth

University Singers ▪ Merilee Klemp, oboe ▪ Yichen Liang, piano (b. 1972)
Kathy Romey, conductor ▪ Matthew Mehaffey, co-conductor

Recorded live on February 10, 2021 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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| I.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
Across the empty squares,
Keeping their windows open
So that those who are alone, are not alone. | III.
Yes, there is fear,
But there need not be hate.
In our isolation
We need not pass on loneliness.
In our sickness, we can halt disease of the soul. |
| II.
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again...
The sky is no longer thick,
But blue and grey and clear. | IV.
Listen, the birds are singing again,
The sky is clearing,
And we are always encompassed by Love. |
| | V.
Open the windows of your soul.
And though you may not be able
To touch across the empty square,
Sing. |

Selections from *Lockdown*
written by Friar Richard Hendrick

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance, when you enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. Draw us near to one another through these meals that unite us with one another and with Christians in all times and places. Unite us in Christ's all-powerful love. Amen.

Hymn

Live in Charity

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love.
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor;

Live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.
U - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

Benediction

Postlude

Lamb of God

Twila Paris

Lynn Liepold, piano

(b. 1959)

*Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.*

*Your gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died;
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.*

*O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God;
I love the Holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood.
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

*I was so lost I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God.*

Accompanying poetry
written by Twila Paris

A Note about *Across the Empty Square* by Ellen Gilson Voth

When I first discovered the poetry of Friar Richard Hendrick, I was struck deeply by how his words speak not only to a global pandemic, but to so much that separates us from others, and how our singing can cross those boundaries, if we are willing to “open the windows” within us. My thanks again to him for responding so quickly to my inquiry, and granting permission for me to set excerpts of his poem, to create this piece.

In both text and music, this piece suggests a palindrome. The first and fifth sections refer to scenes of Italians singing “across the empty squares” and the soundscape implied by their singing—moments of echo and delay, for example. Fragments of Italy’s national anthem are juxtaposed with a recitative-like vocal line; at the end of the piece, singers repeat motives independently to create a “wash” of sound. The second and fourth sections refer to the birds of Wuhan, first against a backdrop of dissonance mingled with a phrase from a Chinese folk song, and later in the harmonic openness and hopefulness suggested by a clearing sky.

The middle section functions as a turning point, balanced by two forces that stand in contrast. Musically this section follows a descending bass line and, in a more obscured manner, a circle of fifths altered by dissonance. These harmonic progressions, so natural and common in our musical vocabulary, are juxtaposed with a text that speaks to our power to work against, to rise above, progressions of human behavior. Hate does not need to be the product of fear; loneliness does not need to grow out of isolation. Even in our sickness, we can halt “disease of the soul.”

Woven throughout the accompaniment are phrases from the hymn tune *How can I keep from singing?* which are often hidden by surrounding musical material, then set free more clearly at the end.

While rooted in the sound concept of live performance, this piece is designed to be compatible with virtual performance, if need be. In either setting, *Across the Empty Square* suggests layers of time and how all of us experience time differently, yet the power and beauty of music are undiminished by the limits of time.