

***The Wilderness is the Birthplace of Joy***  
*by Sarah Are*

I used to know the wilderness only as pain;  
A land without food, a land without water.  
But you rained down manna  
And even water flows in your desert.

I used to think the wilderness was total isolation—  
But the Israelites had each other,  
And you had the stars in the sky.

So then I thought the wilderness must be time wasted—  
Forty years of circles.  
Forty years of wondering.  
But then I realized, each step is a step,  
And maybe there's growth in that.

So then I concluded that the wilderness must be lonely spaces—  
The woman and her well  
The bland man and his gate,  
Martha and her kitchen,  
Peter and his fire.  
But then you showed up in each of those places,  
to each of those faces.

So now I wonder—  
What if the wilderness is the birthplace of creation?  
What if the wilderness is where call begins?  
What if the wilderness is where joy is birthed?  
What if, between the dirt and the sky  
And that wide orange horizon,  
The wilderness is where we find you?



***Celebrating 185+ years of Serving God,  
Serving others, and Loving All***



***Welcome to Worship!***

***Maundy Thursday ~ April 17, 2025***

*Central UMC is a fully inclusive church that seeks, embraces,  
educates, worships, and serves all in God's love.*

We welcome all persons to this time of worship,  
and we pray that this time will be a blessing to you.  
If you wish to learn more about Central and its ministries,  
Welcome folders are available at each entrance/exit  
to the Sanctuary, and in our Welcome Center.

# Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

Prelude

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* arr Fred Bock

Welcome and Service Introduction

## Coming Together as Community

Sung Call to Worship TFWS #2128 v. 1 *Come and Find*

Call to Worship

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

## Preparing to Come to the Table

First Reading Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Meditation

Special Music

*Behold the Lamb of God*, by Healey Willan

## Let Us Wash

Gospel Reading John 13:1-17

Invitation to Foot (hand) Washing

A Time of Foot or Hand Washing

Hymn during Foot/Hand Washing UMH #432 *Jesu, Jesu*

## At Table

Words that Invite us to Christ's Table

Giving Thanks

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Bread & Cup at the Altar Rail

Hymn During Communion UMH #618 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Prayer after Communion

Stripping of the Sanctuary

Song During the Stripping of the Sanctuary  
UMH #288 *Were You There*

Exiting into the Night

*Worship Leaders: Pastors Teressa & Paul*  
*Music: Sean Stafford, Roger Richards, Chancel Choir*  
*Many thanks to the Ushers and Tech Team for today.*