

Beneath the Upper Room

CAST

The Women:

Mary Magdalene	Timi Jordison
Mary of Bethany (Martha and Lazarus' Sister)	Lori Cassady
Martha (Mary and Lazarus' Sister)	Debby Roe
Virgin Mary (Mother of Jesus)	Rachel Bell
Elizabeth (John the Baptists Mom, Mary's Cousin)	Karen Hilpipre
Mary (Mother of James the Younger).	Sandi Rogers
Lydia (Samaritan follower of Jesus)	LaVonne Jacobson
Anna (Phoenician follower of Jesus)	Susan Peters
Salome (James & John's Mom)	Megan Cassady

The Men:

Ezekiel (Servant to the Owner of the Room)	Glen Thompson
Judas (Jesus' Disciple)	Mark Marnar
Peter (Jesus' Disciple)	Steve Roe

The Children:

James (Jesus' Little Brother)	Nicholas Reese
Rachel (Salome's Daughter)	Emily Reese
Timothy (Anna's Son)	Arthur Reese

No Flash Photography or Video Taping Allowed
Please Turn off Cell Phones and Beepers

A New Play Written and Directed by Kevin M Reese

Produced by Special Arrangements with:



www.kmrscripts.com

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Instructions for Communion

At the point in the play where Jesus and His Disciples passed around the bread and wine, Pastor Steve will lead the audience in celebration of Communion. There will be two Communion stations at the front of the sanctuary, near the stage. There will also be two stations in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary. To help expedite the process, we ask that those sitting in the front-half of the sanctuary proceed to the front stations and those in the back-half of the sanctuary proceed to the Narthex stations. The cast will help direct you to your station. After all who desire to partake of Communion have finished, the play will continue through to the end.

A Note From the Playwright

This is a play. This is a work of fiction based upon events we, as Christians, through Faith believe to be facts. I have injected my personal beliefs and philosophies into this play. I have endeavored to keep it biblically accurate– but that was not my intent. My intention was to take the relatively well-known story of Christ's Last Supper and present it in a new way, from a new angle, a new perspective. I wanted the audience to have to think while watching because I imagine, as was my case, it has been a long, long time since they've had to do that in regard to this story.

There are relatively few facts available from the Bible about the Jesus' Last Supper. We know they used somebody's spare room. We know the Disciples were with him. We know Jesus celebrated Passover, washed feet, blessed the wine and the bread, confronted Judas and Peter, then left for the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane. Although the exact order of events differ from book to book and scholar to scholar– those are things we can point to in the scriptures. There are other things that we can only infer, such as that they followed the elements of a traditional Passover Seder ceremony and that their meal was prepared and served by somebody other than the Disciples themselves.

During Jesus' time, it was usually women who served. From what we know from other verses, there were a number of people who constantly traveled with Jesus, many of whom were women. Undoubtedly, those women took up many caring tasks of the group. We know at least some of the names of the women who were there for the crucifixion. By a sort of "reverse engineering," I think I'm making a pretty safe assumption that the characters in this play could very well have been around Jesus during the Last Supper.

I don't consider myself a feminist, but I can't help think that, had the Bible been written by more women instead of 95% men– it would be a very different book. Had the Disciples been women instead of men– or Had God's Son been, instead, God's Daughter– the world would be a very different place (I think a better place– but that's another play). But we trust God's wisdom, we have faith in God's Plan. The purpose of this play is to use the well-known setting of Jesus' Last Supper as a spring-board for a little different perspective– and a few "What ifs?" "Whys?" and "Why nots?" mixed in for good measure.

My thanks to Pastor Steve, my wife, Janelle, and, especially, our wonderful cast. May this be the first of many chancel dramas at Trinity!

Shalom! – KMR

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