

April 9, 2020



Maundy Thursday

*A family of faith ministering together
in the name of Jesus Christ*

Ministers: Each of us Assisted by Rev. Mark Perry

Organist: Kathy Limon

*Written by Shannon Tennant. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2007, pg. 55-56. Used with permission.*

Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ. The Thursday of Holy Week is here. On this night we remember the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in an upper room. It has special significance for us because it was on this night that Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper, saying: "Do this in remembrance of me."

As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

We are still waiting. We are still remembering.

Prayer of Approach *(unison)*

Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death. We come with his friends, the men and women who have followed him in every place and generation, to live once again this story of service and betrayal, of weakness and courage. We come to witness your love in action. Be with us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Question 1

Other Thursday nights are simply Choir Practice. Why is this Thursday called Maundy Thursday?

Response 1

On this Thursday night, we remember how Jesus gathered with his disciples and gave them a new commandment: Love one another. The Latin word for commandment is *mandatum*, from which we get Maundy Thursday.

John 13:31b-35

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Hymn: MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart" Copy right OneLicense.Net

R Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

- 1 God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.
- 2 Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.
- 3 May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Question 2

At other times, we talk about washing our hands. Why tonight do we talk about washing feet?

Response 2

On this Thursday night, we remember how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, showing them that the master must be a servant, and hospitality must be shown by all to all.

John 13:1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and ties a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

Hymn: VU 130 "An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare" copyright OneLicense.Net

- 1 An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their risen Friend.
- 2 A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.

- 3 And after supper he washed their feet,
 for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete:
 sent out to serve, as he was sent.
- 4 No end there is! We depart in peace.
 He loves beyond the uttermost:
 in every room in our Father's house
 Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Question 3

On other Thursday nights, we gather around family supper tables.
Why on this Thursday do we gather around the communion table?

Response 3

On this Thursday night, we remember how Jesus and his disciples gathered in an upper room to share a last meal together. We remember what was said. We remember what was done.

Luke 22:14-23

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.

Hymn: VU 458 "Christ, Let Us Come With You" Copyright CCLI 2593760

- 1 Christ, let us come with you
 to the upper room where the feast is laid,
to the bread and wine where our peace is made:
 Christ, let us come with you!
- 2 Teach us your serving love:
 to become as friends, to become as one
that the world believe what your life has done:
 teach us your serving love.
- 3 Jesus, forgive us all
that we use your name though we stand apart,
 we refuse your prayer to be one at heart:
 Jesus, forgive us all.
- 4 Christ of the open hands,
you have brought us close to be loved and fed,
you have touched our life, now you walk ahead:
 Christ, let us come with you!

The Lord's Supper

Blessed is the Holy One of Israel, Creator of all that is, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Break the bread

Pour the cup

Blessed is the Holy One of Israel, Creator of all that is, who creates the fruit of the vine.

The Sharing of Bread and Cup

Jesus said, "Take this and eat it, this is my body. When you do this, remember me."

Jesus said, "Take this and drink it, this cup is the new covenant. When you do this, remember me."

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

We give thanks, O Lord, that bread broken brings wholeness;

that wine poured out replenishes;

that time spent with the Risen Christ and with one another is both gift and grace. Amen.

Question 4

At other services, we leave our sanctuary as it was when we gathered.

Why on this Thursday do we take away all the decorations?

Response 4

On this Thursday night, we remember how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane as his disciples fell asleep and "abandoned" him. We strip our sanctuary as a reminder of how Jesus was left bereft.

Luke 22:39-46

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him.

When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Strip the sanctuary. Silent reflection.

Question 5

At other services, we leave our sanctuary chatting with our friends and neighbours.

Why on this Thursday do we leave in silence with no benediction?

Response 5

On this Thursday night, we remember how Jesus was arrested as his disciples abandoned him. This service is not over, any more than Jesus' trials were over. We leave in silence, as the disciples crept away in silence and kept silence. And our worship is not over; it continues tomorrow and then, until we gather again, on Sunday morning.

Luke:22:47-54a

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to hiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off

his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!" Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him to the high priest's house.

Please depart in silence.