

Simple Maundy Thursday Service
Designed for video or phone gatherings

Notes:

-Assign readings ahead of time.

Invite everyone to have bread and wine or juice at home for Communion, and prepare them to - turn off the lights in the room they are in.

-Have a candle to light at the end of the service.

-Go over etiquette of video and phone gatherings ahead of time.

Words of Welcome

Tonight, we gather, alone and yet together. We are together to remember the events of long ago, as Jesus gathered with his disciples to share the Passover meal together. But we are alone, a reminder that the disciples also were scattered by the end of the evening. We live with the hope that we will be together again, and we live with the hope of resurrection.

But on this night, we pause in the evening, as the sun sets, and remember how one by one, the faithful disciples failed. They acted out of fear. They acted out of anger. They acted out of an innate human desire to save themselves at all cost.

On this night, we remember how Christ came for us, how Christ broke bread and shared the cup, how Christ laid down his life for us that we might know forgiveness, that we might know that death does not have the final word.

On this night, we remember.

Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, as the evening draws over us, we know that we have fallen short in our own lives. We have let others down. We have failed to live up to our commitments. We have abandoned friends. At times, we have been let down, we have been betrayed, we have felt hurt and left behind. On this night, we seek Your forgiveness for our faults, as we seek to forgive one another. We seek Christ, and know that even when we have been faithless, he remains faithful to us, for he cannot deny himself. It is in Christ that we find healing, forgiveness, and hope for us, now and always. Amen.

Taize Song: Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

First Reading: Matthew 26:6-30

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(Reprise *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*)

Second Reading: Matthew 26:31-46

Taize Song: Stay Here And Keep Watch With Me

Third Reading: Matthew 26:47-56

Song: What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 1)

Fourth Reading: Matthew 26:57-75

Song: What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 2)

Fifth Reading: Matthew 27:1-25

Song: Were You There? (verse 1)

Sixth Reading: Matthew 27:26-49

Song: Were You There? (verse 2)

Seventh Reading: Matthew 27:50-56

Silent Reflection*

(turn off the lights in your room and keep them off for the last song)

Song: Were You There? (verse 3)

(after a moment of silence, light the candle)

Benediction (John 1:1-5)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Go in peace. Amen.