

Maundy Thursday Year C

Opening words (from John 13:1)

“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.”

Beloved ones, we have gathered on this night long ago, when Jesus was betrayed. We remember how Jesus gathered with his beloved ones, even the one who betrayed him, but also the one who denied him, the one who doubted him, the ones who argued over who was the greatest. All of Jesus' beloved ones failed and fell away, and yet, Jesus still loved them, and Jesus loves us. Jesus loves you, despite any shortcomings. Jesus knows all our faults and flaws, and Jesus offers us forgiveness.

This is a service of healing and restoration as we remember that night long ago when Jesus took bread and broke it, took a cup and poured it out. Gather now for prayer and reflection, and with the commandment to love one another, may we seek to forgive and be forgiven, to serve and be served, to care for one another and to help bring healing to our world.

Shall we pray:

True One, You are the true vine, and we are the branches. We confess that we have not always borne our spiritual fruit. We have at times consumed more than we needed, hoarding our gifts, and refused to bear the fruit worthy of repentance. We confess our sins before You, O God, and ask that You would renew our hearts, and put a new and right spirit within us. We confess that we need forgiveness, O Christ, and pray for Your guidance in this journey of faith. All this we pray together, and pray as You taught us:

(share the Lord's prayer together in whatever version you wish)

Suggested songs: Gathered Here in the Mystery of this Hour

Abide With Me (first verse)

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Scripture: Luke 14:1-23

“Which one of us would do this?” the disciples questioned. Who of us could betray our Lord? And yet, each time we fail to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, we have failed. We have fallen short of what God has taught us through the sages of old, what the prophets warned us. We have walked in the ways of our ancestors when they went astray.

In this time of silent confession, lift up your prayers to God. Confess from your heart. But know this: God loves you. Jesus offered this very meal to the one who betrayed him, to all who fell short. Jesus offers you this bread and cup. The assurance is in this living bread, this cup of the

new covenant: you are loved, forgiven, and restored. I invite you into a time of silent confession. As you feel led, come forward, and receive the bread of life, and the cup of forgiveness. Then turn, and offer the bread and cup to the next person.*

**make arrangements for those who cannot come forward to receive communion, or offer in another way that enables full participation.*

***Invite those on Zoom to participate. Perhaps enact the invitation to the camera for those at home to participate when they are ready.*

While Communion is shared, have music play in the background, or sing softly "Let Us Break Bread Together On Our Knees."

Scripture Reading: John 13:3-15

You are invited into a time of foot or hand washing. As Mary anointed Jesus' feet with perfume, to prepare him for his service on the cross, so Jesus went and anointed the disciples feet by washing them, to prepare them, and all of us, to serve him in this world. By washing one another's feet, we show our kindness and compassion to one another. We recognize one another as disciples, servants of Christ, fellow travelers on the road of faith. We have been set as an example by Christ, may we live into that practice of love for one another by caring for each other in this intimate way.

(explain the logistics here. For those at home, a suggestion is to purchase a colorful towel that is sent to all the individuals/families who will participate from home. Or, invite everyone to share what their basin for foot washing or bowl for hand washing looks like in the camera. Though we cannot wash each other's feet, we wash together in symbolic unity of service to one another. Perhaps a collection for personal hygiene items might be taken as a way of participating in service of others).

Suggested songs: Jesu, Jesu
The Gift of Love

(You can sing or play music during the foot washing)

Beloved ones, we have fed from the table of Christ, we have washed each other's feet and served one another. May you know the forgiveness of Christ through his undying love for us. Jesus shared these words to his disciples after he washed their feet:

"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.

Closing Song Suggestion: This Is My Commandment
Benediction