

Bedworth Parish



Maundy Thursday

7:15pm for 7:30pm Service

To fully participate in this service, it would be helpful if you gather the following suggested resources. A candle, some bread, a glass of drink/wine, and a small cross.

Introduction

The Thursday of Holy Week is remembered as the time Jesus ate a final meal together with the men who had followed him for so long. We do not have to understand the theology of the event to remember and celebrate in worship what Jesus did and taught and modelled for us, what God was doing in Jesus the Christ.

Traditionally in the Christian Church, this day is known as Maundy Thursday. The term Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order." The term is usually translated "commandment," from John's account of this Thursday night. According to the Fourth Gospel, as Jesus and the Disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, he washed the disciples' feet to illustrate humility and the spirit of servanthood. After they had finished the meal, as they walked into the night toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught his disciples a "new" commandment that was not really new (John 13:34-35):

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

In some church traditions all of the altar coverings and decorations are removed after Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Psalm 22 is sometimes either read or sung while the altar paraments are being removed. Since the altar in these traditions symbolize the Christ, the "stripping of the altar" symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers prior to his crucifixion. This, like the darkness often incorporated into a Good Friday service, represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life and hope that is to come on Resurrection Day.

“Agape” is the New Testament Greek work for “self-giving love”. In the Christian tradition an “Agape” is also the name for informal meals and times of togetherness and mutual sharing which remind us of all those meals Jesus shared with his friends and the unity that his Spirit continues to give us.

Gathering

The minister informally welcomes everybody before a member of the congregation says the welcome

In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, who on this night shared a final meal with his friends - I bid you a warm welcome. Let this be a time of sharing; of sharing in the events of that night, the sharing of our mutual faith food and of sharing in the love we have for each other and for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Though we are physical separate and scattered, and acknowledge our grief in our separation we are expectant that Holy Spirit through your power and presence you will bring our hearts and minds close together this evening.

Confession

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Silence is kept for a moment

Lets us confess our sins in penitence and faith

Lord Jesus, you are the firstborn of the dead; Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bore our sins in your body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus, you call us to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow you; Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest pronounces God's forgiveness

We have turned our hearts to God in repentance and our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ. In the name of the living God, may you know with you heart and mind that your sins are forgiven.

We receive God's mercy and take hold of our forgiveness. lead us, Holy Spirit, to walk again in the light of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

If you are able please mute your microphone and stand to worship together

1. There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

2. We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains He had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

3 He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might from our sins be freed,
Saved by His precious blood.

4 There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin,
He only could divine life give
And dwell Himself within.

Collect

O God, your love was embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed the disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal: wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ, to whom be glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Passover

Let's listen to an explanation of the Passover (Exodus 12)

Gospel

Let us listen to the account of Jesus's last meal with his disciples.

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 tied 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 now 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. 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.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

A short reflection is given

Intercessions

Merciful God, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples’ feet. As we commit ourselves to following his example of love and service, teach us humility.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one. As we grieve for the divisions in the church, unite us.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe through the disciples’ message. As we take up the mission of the church, renew our zeal.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus commanded his friends to love, but he suffered rejection himself. As we open our hearts to the rejected and the unloved, fill us with your love.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus reminded his people that, if the world hated them, it had hated him first. As we face our own fears, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith; give us your peace.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus loved his friends to the very end. As we open our hearts to all who face darkness tonight, we pray for the sick, those who mourn, those trapped by violence, addiction, or pain: give healing and hope.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Faithful God, these are the prayers of your Church.

We offer them trusting and hoping in you. Hear and help us, challenge and change us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Setting the Table

The minister introduces the reflective part of the service.

Psalm 23, A psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A member of the congregation introduces the table

On our tables in the midst of our homes where Christ is present we set symbols to remind us of His promises to us.

Light

A candle is placed on the centre table and lit then the following is said:

A candle, to remind us of Jesus who said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life”.

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine on me, shine on me
Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Bread

John 6:25-59 - Jesus the Bread of Life

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Some bread is placed on the centre of our table and then a member of the congregation says the following:

Bread, symbol of Jesus who said, “I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world”.

The Minister then says

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, you bring forth bread from the earth to sustain us. Blessed is your name for all the life and food we share, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Wine

Wine is placed on the centre table and the following is said by a member of the congregation:

Wine, symbol of Jesus who said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, you create the fruit of the vine. Blessed is your name for refreshing our lives from the cup of life and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Cross

A cross is placed on the centre table and the following is said by a member of the congregation:

A cross, to remind us that Jesus said, “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another”.

The gathered community says together

Lord, we welcome your presence with us. May the companionship and love we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed As we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places. Amen.

The Gathering of Symbols

The Priest then addresses the people in these or similar words.

Tonight we have begun the Great Three Days of our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, the journey from the supper table to the cross, from the cross to grave and finally the Easter dawn. We are followers in his way, exploring his truth, encountering his life.

This is the night when Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him. This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room. This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast, that when we break the bread and drink the cup we proclaim his holy sacrifice, and come at the last to his table in heaven. This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples’ feet, showing us how to honour and serve one another in love. This is the night for watching and prayer.

We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days, confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him.

The following may be sung in quiet contemplation.

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

The Peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' In that love, we are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

The Stripping of the Table

Many churches at the end of the Maundy Thursday service traditionally strip the Altar and taking out of the furnishings. This tradition has evolved into a ceremony of identification with the lonely desolation of our Lord in the garden of Gethsemane

During the Stripping of the Altar it is traditional to read part of Psalm 22. This psalm is the one, which our Lord quoted on the cross.

Let us follow in this tradition by clearing away our bread, wine, cross and candle. Maybe taking some time this evening to sit in silence.

Reflective Song to finish - Gethsemane by Stuart Townend