

Maundy Thursday Service

available on YouTube

April 9th, 2020

Hello and welcome to a time of worship on this Holy Thursday.

Together we pause in our day so that we might be mindful of Jesus journey along the path of love. His journey through what we now call Holy Week.

Today is Maundy Thursday – and together we will consider the last gathering Jesus shared with his disciples.

Let us begin by lighting a candle.

(Christ candle)

I have lit for us the Christ Candle we light each Sunday morning and on these holy days to remind us of Christs light in our worship and in our living.

I invite you to light a candle where you are.

Let us pray:

Opening Prayers

God who is love. It is hard to be apart from one another on this Holy Thursday. It has been our tradition to gather around the communion table – to be feed by Jesus living bread, to have our thirst quenched by Jesus covenant love - to wash our hands and be reminded of Jesus example to love and serve others and our call to do the same.

God who is love, open us to new ways to journey familiar roads. Remind us once again that holy traditions mean nothing if we cannot live them each and every day. Teach us your way as we listen to holy words and recall Jesus life of love poured out. Draw us closer to you and to one another. Amen.

Let us open our hearts and our minds as we listen for the wisdom of God revealed to us is scripture.

(bowl of water)

John 13:1-17 & 37-38

¹Now 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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²After 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? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Reflection:

There isn't too much that gets my 19 year old son hot under the collar. Matthew is a pretty steady young man – a “rolls with the punches” kind of guy. But Tuesday morning there wasn't much that was calm and cool.

Tuesday morning Matthew got up extra early (I did mention he is 19 so his mornings begin about 11:30 – noon ish - Matthew got up extra early so he could be to the grocery store just after the senior hour was over at 9:00am. Now I could always count on Matthew to run to the grocery store for a couple of things for supper but now that we are living in the midst of a pandemic - he fully appreciates that it is not wise for me to do the grocery shopping as I have a compromised immune system so he has taken on the job of doing all our family's shopping with enthusiasm and great care. So on Tuesday Matthew sacrificed some sleep so he could be at the Coop at what he describes as the best time

a) early in the day therefore less risk and

b) the shelves are still well stocked so he does not have to make more than one trip a week.

So with a list in hand Matthew headed out. While in line waiting to enter the store a young man about 30 years of age he tells me came along – looked at the line and just loud enough for everyone to hear said “Sheep” thus insulting everyone in line then this young man turned and headed back to his car.

Matthew was furious – how can someone be that rude – doesn't he know that we are all in line because we are wanting to take care of each other. Doesn't he get that I am in line because I love my family and I want them to be fed and safe and that smart people are telling us that this is the best way to do that. Matthew's rant went on for a bit but I best not share the rest...

I am so proud of my hot under the collar son because he is absolutely right. We must take care of each other.

It is what Jesus wanted his disciples to do – to take care of each other. It might not be pretty – washing the feet of a bunch of dusty, tired men – could not possibly have been a simple or pleasant task. But – Jesus needed the disciples to understand he needed them to get this right – take care of each other – take care of your neighbour – in fact love them.

Friends I know these are difficult times and I live with many worries and concerns but I also live with a great deal of hope and joy in the midst of it all. Because for every “yet to be enlightened – name calling soul” out there – there are 10 other souls who get it.

Bags of groceries left for someone in quarantine on a step, meals prepared for truck drivers, kids making signs of encouragement drawn in chalk on the sidewalk, young aboriginal women with jingle dresses dancing, and ribbons of support tied on shrubs outside of a care home.

Artists and athletes donating money or raising money to feed those who are unemployed and thousands banging pots and honking horns in gratitude for nurses and doctors and house keepers and food services providers and scientists and technicians and others who work in healthcare. And looks of respect and gratitude for those who stock shelves and check out our groceries and wash down carts and mop floors and wipe down everything.

Jesus said; “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(black cloth over cross)

Prayer:

Servant God, kneeling, bending, healing,
Take our dusty journeys and wrap your loving hands around them.
For every path we have journeyed in life that has led to hurt.
Every word that has taken us and others to painful places,
Every thought that has moved us toward the shadows,
Every act that has lead us to harmful places.
Wash away the pain.

Servant God, kneeling, bending, healing
Take the wounds of our travelling and hold them in your healing hands.
Every journey of remembrance that strangles our breathing.
Every memory that weights us down with anger we cannot surrender.
Every place we have visited that holds too much struggle.
Wash away the lingering memories as we let go and shift toward the here and the now.

Servant God, kneeling, bending, healing
Take away the discomfort we feel because of our failure to honour our own values.
Wash away: every lesson about love we have not learned
 every value we have not grasped,
 every truth of your gospel we have ignored.
Wash away our hesitation to accept your love of us.

Open our ears to your call
Open our eyes to the needs of others.
Open our hearts in love
Open our hands to serve as you taught us.

This we pray in the name of Jesus who taught also to pray.
Our Father and Mother.....
who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Blessing:

On the night of his arrest, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment and set an example for them by washing their feet. In this act of service, he reminded them to care for and serve one another.

It has been our tradition on Maundy Thursday to wash our hands and remember our call to love and serve others. Well friends we are not together but we have gotten very familiar with hand washing as of late because of COVID 19..

I want to ask you to wash your hands once again at the close of this video worship – but this time when you wash your hand be reminded of Jesus' example. And as you feel the water fall from our figure tips – may you hear Jesus whisper in your ear - I give you a new commandment love one another as I have loved you.

May God continue to hold you and bless you as we move together through holy week.