**A Maundy Thursday Reflection**

I was blessed with the opportunity to draft a meaningful time of worship and reflection for today, Maundy Thursday. This is the annual commemoration of Jesus’ last supper and the night on which he washed his disciple’s feet. It is a truly sacred part of our observation of Holy Week. The challenge this year is that we are unable to gather together to celebrate or re-enact either event. At first it felt a bit like I was being asked to host a popcorn and movie night at which we could have neither popcorn nor a movie.

But the Holy Spirit can never be confined. What God wishes to bless, God blesses.

It seems we all have time on our hands these days, I have been using some of mine reading books from my “get around to them one day” list. One such book I am reading is Mother Theresa’s life story called *For the Brotherhood of Man*. Among the most frequent questions asked of Mother Theresa was ‘why?’ With all she could have done why did she work with the destitute people living in the slums of Calcutta? In response she said, “We see Christ in two forms. We see him on the altar, under the appearance of bread and we see him in the slums in the broken bodies of the forgotten people.”

On that first Maundy Thursday Jesus broke bread with his disciples and he washed their feet. He also commanded them to continue in both activities as both would bring them into contact with himself. This is what I hear echoing in the words of Theresa. Yes, we receive Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. When we receive communion we receive Christ. Knowing this to be true I join all of you in looking forward with joyful expectation to the time when we can again gather to receive Christ at his holy table.

For now, however, we are being asked to encounter Christ by wrapping a towel around our waist and washing the feet of those in need. Naturally we cannot engage in a lot of literal foot washing. What we can do is adopt the spirit of Jesus’ command, “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.”

Yesterday Rev. Ruthanne added a feature to our Newsletter called “Community Continues” which lists some of the ways we can wrap a towel around our waist and serve those members of our community experiencing need. So many of you are embracing the opportunities these Covid-19 times are providing to help others. I was told about one parishioner that delivered palms to eight different people, left them on their porches with a text message of blessing. I heard of another parishioner that has offered words of support and encouragement to over a dozen people while out cycling. There are so many such stories and I thank God for each of you. This sermon is not an appeal to serve your fellow man. You don’t need the reminder to do so. All I want to remind you is that when you do these small acts of kindness you really are doing them for God. When you help another you encounter the Christ that dwells in them.

In serving others, particularly the needy and vulnerable we are serving Christ. This is what Mother Theresa was saying in the above quote. She wasn’t making a vague reference to the universality of the human condition nor was she saying “all love is Godly”. Although both of these statements are true; we are all one humanity and all love does, in fact, proceed from the divine. No, Theresa was making the specific observation that the same Christ we experience when we receive Holy Communion is present in every person.

Let me leave you with this image. Picture God himself kneeling in front of someone. Here I invite you to imagine a specific person; it could be you or someone you love or an orphan from Calcutta. God is gently cupping their chin in his hand as he looks deep into their eyes. “Yes” he says looking that face over in detail, “Yes, there’s no mistaking DNA, this is my child. Look at her, she looks just like me.” Amen