

## **April.09.2020 Maundy Thursday/ Holy Thursday**

*In 2020, because of an outbreak of the COVID19 Virus, quarantines, Social Distancing and care for those who are most vulnerable to the disease meant that worship in person was not possible.*

*So our worship was shared online via Zoom and with others receiving bulletins so that they would read along with us.*

*We remember...*

### ***It was the time of the Passover Celebration...***

This eight-day festival celebrated the release of the captives from Egypt. During this time the ancient stories of faith were retold.

Symbols were used to remember

**Four glasses of wine** ...the promises of God from Exodus 6:6-7

“I will bring you out...and I will deliver you...and I will redeem you...and I will take you”

**Unleavened bread** – when God says now is the time to go... you go. No time to wait for the bread to rise. It's not our schedule, it's God's schedule.

**Bitter Herbs** - for the bitterness of life as slaves.

**Sweet Charoset** – to remember God's love can sweeten bitterness and suffering.

**Eggs** – Traditionally a food of mourners. To remember the Temples that were destroyed.

**Lamb Bone**– to remember the lamb sacrificed so that it's blood marked the doors of the faithful and the Angel of Death passed over them.

This Passover meal was to be a celebration. A coming together of family and friends to give thanks for the gifts that God offers to life.

**☩ Hymn: ♪ We give our thanks to you  
We give our thanks to you. We give our thanks to you.  
We give our thanks to you. We give our thanks to you.  
We give our hearts to you. We give our hearts to you.  
We give our hearts to you, because you first loved us.**

### ***Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday***

As Maundy Thursday draws to a close we pause to remember what has become known as The Last Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin Mandatum novum which means “a new commandment”.

We remember how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how to build a community of servanthood.

We remember how Jesus took an old and treasured story of his faith and added a new chapter to it, changing perceptions and meaning to make space for God in a new way.

*In the centre of the room ...*

*Communion Table with purple cloth.*

*Basin on a stand with a large white candle in it.*

*Clear pitcher of water on the floor near the basin.*

*Light the large Candle...aware of God around us...*

### **Call to Worship:**

Come, let us share this space with God, the Holy One, who listens to all people.

**We come to share with God,  
who hears our voice and our cries.**

Let us remember the stories of our God and hear God’s voice call to us, guide us and lead us.

**As we hear the stories of old,  
let us open our hearts to God’s voice  
moving us into the stories of the future.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Loving God, come and be with us in this time of worship.

Comfort us as we remember the discomfort and the challenge of the stories of these days.

**Remind us that,**

**Even as we feel helpless and sad in the stories of this week, you are present with us through it all.**

We worship you in the profound certainty that everything—everything -- is always followed by resurrection...new life inspired and fired by you. **Amen.**

*☩ Hymn: ♪ Return Again:*

**The New Commandment:**

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

It was the day before the Passover. We could tell that Jesus seemed distant. We gathered for supper on that night and while we were eating, Jesus got up from the table, took off his jacket and tied a towel around his waist.

Then Jesus poured water into a basin (pour from pitcher into basin). Jesus started to wash all our feet and wipe them with the towel.

Jesus came to me, Simon Peter, and I said, “Wait, what are you doing?”

Jesus said to me, “Simon Peter, I know it doesn’t make sense now, but later you’ll get it.”

I said, “No way; you’re never going to wash my feet.

We have servants to do this kind of work for us.”

But then Jesus said, “Unless you let me wash your feet, I can’t let you be a part of what we are doing.”

Jesus knew how to get me where it counts. He knew I had given my life to him. Still not understanding completely I said, “Well then, not just my feet, wash my hands and head, too!”

Jesus smiled at me in the way he often did. “Your

feet are enough, Peter,” he said, “But not everyone of you is clean. There are some messes I won’t be cleaning up tonight.” Jesus knew that Judas would betray him. Still, he treated us all the same; he loved and served us all to the end.

After Jesus washed everyone’s feet, he sat back down at the table and started teaching. He said, “I’m your teacher and have set an example for you. You should wash each other’s feet. If you know what to do, do it.”

It was difficult for us to understand what he meant at the time. Washing feet is a job for servants. Or, if a servant is not available, it is something we take care of ourselves. But, by his example, Jesus was asking us to serve one another.

That night, Jesus said, “Pretty soon I’ll be leaving you and where I go you cannot come. I give you a commandment: Love each other. As I’ve been loving you, love each other. That’s how people will know that you are my followers: if you love each other.”

We remembered these words and realized their meaning later when we started to become a community living in the Spirit of Jesus.

### **Being a Servant:**

We are asked to love as Jesus loved. Jesus washed feet to show care for the weary. Today we are asked to wash our hands to show care for our family, friends and community. In this time of the world, our service is to put ourselves last, and our concerns for others first.

Take a moment to go through the motions of washing your hands as a reminder of the call to care.

***☩ Hymn: 🎵 VU595 We Are Pilgrims***

**☪ Hymn: ♪ Return Again:**

**New from the Old:**

**Mark 14:12-16, 22-24** The Message

12 On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the day they prepare the Passover sacrifice, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations so you can eat the Passover meal?”

13-15 He directed two of his disciples, “Go into the city. A man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him. Ask the owner of whichever house he enters, ‘The Teacher wants to know, Where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ He will show you a spacious second-story room, swept and ready. Prepare for us there.”

16 The disciples left, came to the city, found everything just as he had told them, and prepared the Passover meal.

22 In the course of their meal, having taken and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them. Then he said, Take, this is my body.

23-24 Taking the chalice, he gave it to them, thanking God, and they all drank from it. He said, This is my blood, God’s new covenant, Poured out for many.

### **Moving forward into the future:**

When we think about the Last Supper and the blessing of the bread and wine, and we imagine that after the dinner was over, Jesus picked up some of the leftover bread that remained on the table.

Legend and story tell us that it was just the opposite. Jesus picked a particular piece of bread that symbolized the Messiah yet to come. Everyone at the table with him would have known its symbolism.

Jesus picked up a broken piece of the bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it even more. He probably broke it past any human's ability to put it back together.

Then he told his disciples "Take eat, for this is my Body." It is hard for us to realize how great an act this was for Jesus to do. He picked up the bread which had been waiting at every Seder dinner for about a thousand years and said to his closest friends "I am the One."

This changed the story.  
It no longer ended with waiting for the Messiah.  
Now it ended with the knowledge  
that God was truly among them.

Now the waiting was over and the action must begin.

***☪ Hymn: ♪ Return Again:***

### **We join in God's story**

On this night, we remember Jesus  
and some of his closest friends  
gathered in a borrowed room,  
celebrating a sacred feast in which they remembered  
that God does not abandon us,

but rather delivers us from slavery  
into new life, and new hope.

Jesus infused new meaning into this celebration,  
inviting his friends to repeat the rituals of this feast  
whenever they wanted to remember Christ's presence.  
We do the same, and remind ourselves  
that wherever we are,  
Jesus is among us,  
inviting us into the new life God offers

So, with thanksgiving, and faith and gratitude for the love of  
God we tell the story again.

**We remember how Jesus,  
the very night he was betrayed to the authorities,  
gathered with some of his closest friends.**

He joined with them in the Passover Meal  
the community remembering  
of the gifts that God offered them in life

Toward the end of the Passover Meal,  
Jesus changed the story.  
He looked forward to the future,  
and recognized that the new and old  
needed to remember together.

We remember this meal with friends,  
We remember that after this time  
life would change and never be the same.  
We remember Jesus,  
offering the best he could to lead his friends  
forward into newness.

**Prayer for Grace**

Chosen One of God,  
Teacher, Leader, Friend...

We are looking at where we have come from.  
**We are working to follow your love  
that takes us to where we are to be.  
As we remember your story of  
love and service  
and courage to move into change  
we invite you to join us at our table of challenge.**  
Be with us,  
offering old story to be transformed into new.  
**Light our way on this journey,  
so that we may know:  
God's love and light as you do;  
the power of faith to overcome evil;  
the power of love to bring the world to life.  
Amen**

### **The Prayer of Jesus VU959**

Let us join our voices together in prayer, as we gather all  
people of the world to our hearts, as we sing together...

### **Prayer**

Thank you, God, for the grace that you share with us...  
the invitation to share in your divine sustenance for our soul.  
Thank you for the companions you place on our journey  
who support us and challenge us to move past the waiting  
into living fully for you and with you.  
**Amen.**

Let us go from this place, ready to tell the story  
and be the story of God's love in the world.

Peace be with you  
**And also with you**

*You are invited to greet your neighbours and pass the peace of Christ.*



**Acknowledgements**

**Seasons of the Spirit. Seasons FUSION Lent -Easter 2011/ 2017**

**Passover Seder: Ritual and Menu for an Observance by Christians:**  
by Barbara Balzac Thompson.