

Maundy Thursday, April 9 2020
St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay
<https://www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca>

Maundy Thursday Meal

'Maundy' comes from the word mandate, as it is at the Last Supper that Jesus tells his followers, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13: 34-35). On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' final meal with his friends when he gave his friends the commandment to love one another, and in an act of love and service, washed their feet.

It was in a simple home setting that Jesus spent the night before his arrest – he drew his friends together, shared a meal with them, washed their feet, and gave them the final command to love as he had loved.

We are all at this time much at home. In the midst of the range of complex emotions - isolation and loneliness for some, and too much togetherness for others - this is an invitation to celebrate Maundy Thursday in our own homes in the context of the evening meal. It is simple and created to be used with all ages, for those who live alone or those who live with family.

Preparation

1. Plan for a simple meatless meal
2. Away from the meal table set-up a simple hand-washing station with a bowl, pitcher, towels and soap.
3. Be prepared to clear the table completely after the meal
4. For kids you may want to have paper and coloured pencils or crayons
5. Have this handout available along with the music Marlon has provided for the hand-washing and table-clearing.

Opening Prayer

Jesus, we gather this night to give thanks for your love and to remember to love one another as you have taught. Now more than ever we know that all people are connected, we all depend on one another. Help us to be loving instead of fearful, kind instead of irritable or mean. Because even as you knew you were about to be betrayed, you chose love. Because even as you knew you would soon die, you chose love. Help us to choose love also.

Blessing over the Food

Blessed are you, O Creator, for you have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Bless the hands of those who have laboured so that we can have this food on our table – we especially give thanks for those who place themselves at risk and continue to work so that we might be fed.

Blessing over the Wine

Blessed are you O Creator, for you create the fruit of the vine. As we share in the wine, may we remember how Jesus poured out his life to show the world that you are Love. May we recall that we are branches growing from one vine; whether we sit at table alone or with family, we are connected with everyone across the globe and you are in our midst.

The meal is eaten. Here are some questions for reflection or conversation and activities for kids for during the meal:

- 1) *When have you felt deeply loved? What was the context, how was the love conveyed?*
- 2) *When have you encountered God's love?*
- 3) *In times you've been afraid, how have you had your fear settled?*
- 4) *What are three things your grateful for today?*
- 5) *Is there someone you wish you could share this meal with? Say a prayer for them.*

Especially for kids:

- 6) *What are your highs and lows for this week?*
- 7) *What do you miss about being in school or participating in activities you enjoy?*
- 8) *Tell about a time you felt understood*
- 9) *What is the colour for Lent? Find something that colour and draw it*
- 10) *Draw the animal that Jesus ride into Jerusalem*
- 11) *Draw a cross and tell someone about why the cross is important*
- 12) *Draw a picture of what is like to be afraid, then draw a picture of what it is like to be at peace*
- 13) *Ask someone else at the table when they have been afraid and how they settled their fear*
- 14) *How can you show love? Draw pictures or talk about it.*

After the food is eaten

Reading - John 13:1-15

** For a shorter, less complex reading, you can omit the sections in brackets*

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. [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.

Move to the hand-washing station and prepare to play the music Marlon has provided, offer the prayer below and then play the music during the hand-washing and table-clearing.

Prayer for hand-washing

On this night we remember how Jesus poured love on others and even gave his own life to show that God is love. In these days of pandemic we are called to offer love and service to others as Jesus did. As we wash our hands we recall how Jesus washed his friend’s feet to show them he loved them. As we wash our hands we do so as an act of love and self-offering to every person we meet, especially for the most vulnerable among us. We do this not because we are afraid, but because Jesus commanded us to love one another.

Each wash their own hands intentionally or wash one another’s hands, tenderly and carefully. If you live alone bring to mind the faces of people whom you love - as you wash your hands, imagine washing their hands and send them your love and prayers as you wash.

Clear the table in silence or as you listen to the music provided. After everything is cleared and cleaned, offer the final blessing.

Final Blessing

In the days to come, may we remember Jesus’ love. When we are afraid, sad, lonely or angry may we turn to one another in love in Jesus’ name. Amen.