

# Maundy Thursday Service of the Word

## *The Upper Room, Vigil and Watch*

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

#### The Greeting

*A candle is lit on the altar.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*Words of welcome are given.*

#### Call to Worship

We gather tonight to recall the story  
of the night Jesus was betrayed.

Are you prepared  
to come to the feast of Jesus, the Christ,  
whose life was poured out for you?

**All By the grace of God, we are.**

Are you able to watch with Jesus  
at prayer in the garden –  
indeed, to struggle yourselves to be in unity  
with God's will for you?

**All By the grace of God, we are.**

Then let us praise God, even in this hour of darkness.

**All God of all grace and steadfast love,  
greatly is your name to be praised in all the earth.  
Bring us to this feast of remembrance  
with open hearts.**

**Musical Meditation – *An upper room***

## Prayers of Penitence

God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost. Jesus – Saviour and Lord – who at his last meal with his disciples gave them – and us – that new commandment: “...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.”

Merciful God,  
we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak...  
when we have failed to serve as Jesus served;

**All forgive us.**

When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us;

**All forgive us.**

When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with  
our lips and then denied him by our actions;

**All forgive us.**

*Silence is kept.*

Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world"  
and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end"

The good news therefore is this:  
In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Collect

Let us pray that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father,  
you have invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading – John 13.1-17, 31-35**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:  
Love one another as I have loved you.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

When Judas had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

“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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

### **Musical Meditation – Stabat Mater no. 5**

#### **Meditation on Foot Washing**

*Our focus is drawn to the bowl and water on the central table.*

Why did you wash their feet?  
I don't understand, it makes no sense.

Why did you do something so demeaning,  
so distasteful,  
when you did not have to?  
Why humble yourself and wash the feet of your own disciples?  
You are the Messiah,  
it makes no sense for you, of all people,  
to do something that should be done by the least of all people,  
not by the greatest.  
It is not what we want our Messiahs to do.

Unless...  
unless we have got it wrong and that,  
somehow this is a measure of what Messiah means?  
Not that it is defined in greatness  
but that somehow, in your world the first will be last,  
and the greatest, least and servant of all?

But if we are to follow you,  
does it mean that we must follow your example too?  
Are you suggesting that we too should make ourselves humble?  
That we must wash the feet of the people whom we would rather ignore,  
or scapegoat,  
or deride?

Must we too become the servants of the least among us?  
the refugee,  
the disabled,  
the homeless,  
the addicted,  
the anti-social,  
the child?

Was that what all of this was about?  
To try and put us in our rightful place,  
not at the centre of our own world,  
but at the centre of yours,  
where we are no longer the most important person?  
Is that it?  
Were you trying to teach us this simple truth,  
that other people,  
all other people,  
should matter too?

Is that why you washed their feet?

## **Musical Meditation – Station 12**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father  
through Christ the saviour of the world.

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,  
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.  
We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.  
Lord hear us,

**All and humble us.**

On this night he prayed for his disciples to be one.  
We pray for the unity of your Church.  
Lord hear us,

**All and humble us.**

On this night he prayed for those  
who were to believe in their message.  
We pray for the mission of your Church.  
Lord hear us,

**All and humble us.**

On this night he commanded his disciples to love,  
but suffered rejection himself.  
We pray for the rejected and unloved.  
Lord hear us

**All and humble us.**

On this night he reminded his disciples that if the world hated them  
it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.  
Lord hear us

**All and humble us.**

On this night he accepted the cup of death  
And looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.  
We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.  
Lord hear us

**All and welcome all your children into paradise.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*We offer one another a sign of peace.*

## The Vigil

*The church is stripped of its adornments for Good Friday, during which we will listen to Home at Last (ft. The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended).*

*After an extended silence the Vigil concludes with:*

### The Gospel of the Watch – Luke 22.31-62

Jesus said, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they answered.

He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment."

The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That's enough!" he replied.

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."



Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace...

*The candle on the altar is extinguished.*

*We conclude our service in silence.*

**Please try to join us:**

**Good Friday Waiting by the Cross, 2pm**

**Easter Eve Vigil, 7.30pm**

**Easter Day Holy Communion, 10.30am.**