



MAUNDY

Thursday

17 April 2025

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting of the Christ and Affirm Candle

We light these rainbow candles as symbols of the people of this community; welcoming, affirming and embracing diversity.

We light the Christ candle as a symbol of the light of Christ that guides our way, now and always.

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather tonight in deepening darkness.

All: As we gather tonight, let us walk with those who travelled with Jesus.

Leader: Let us be disciples who receive the generous gift of the washing of our dusty and weary feet.

All: Let us be friends at the table who share in the breaking of bread and pouring out of wine. Let us be companions who journey with Jesus to the garden.

Leader: Come, let us gather in worship.

All: Let us acknowledge Jesus' great love for us.

Leader: Let us give thanks.

All: Let us keep watch together.

Prayer of Approach

Lord Jesus,

We are stunned at your passion and your commitment toward us.

You did not run from the darkness,

You did not hide from your accusers,

You did not fade into safe obscurity.

You stepped with determination into the darkness.

We praise you, Gracious Lord, for all you have done for us to reconcile us with God.

We praise you, Gracious Lord, for your words of forgiveness, for the wonder of your grace and your unending love for us.

Open our eyes and ears to see and hear again the events of this night.

As we watch with You, as the darkness comes,

Let us remember what this journey means and count again the cost of love.

Amen.

First Scripture Reading - John 13:2-15 (NIV)

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

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

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

¹² 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. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Maundy Thursday Poem (by Lucy Nanson)

Wash my hands on Maundy Thursday,
not my feet.

My hands peel potatoes, wipe messes from the floor,
change dirty nappies, clean the grease from pots and pans
have pointed in anger and pushed away in tears.

In years past they've raised a fist,
fumbled with nervousness, shaken with fear.

I've wrung them when waiting for news to come,
crushed a letter I'd rather forget,
covered my mouth when I've been caught out.

These hands have dug gardens, planted seeds,
picked fruit and berries, weeded out and pruned trees.
They have been found bleeding from the rose's thorns,
dirt and blood mix together
when washed before a cup of tea.

Love has been expressed by them
in the hand-shake of warm greeting, the gentle rubbing of a
child's bump,
the caressing of a lover, the softness of a baby's cheek,
sounds of music played by them in tunes upon a flute.
They've held a frightened teenager, touched a father in his dying
when end of life has come but not the end of love,
and comforted a mother losing agility and health.

With my hands outstretched before you
I stand humbled and in awe:
your gentle washing in water, the softness of the towel
symbolizing a cleansing
the servanthood of Christ.

Wash my hands on Maundy Thursday
and not my feet.

Handwashing Ritual

God of the rain and the seas,
water gives life and strength,
cleanses and renews.

May this washing remind us of your life-giving love
and be a renewal of our commitment
to participate fully in your work.

May your saving love flow endlessly like water
into our hearts and minds.

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who exemplified love through service.

Amen

The Last Supper

Hymn: *Bread of Life, Broken and Shared* MV 197
(Refrain only, 2x)

Prayer of Preparation

Leader: Lord, we come to you looking to be fed. We remember the stories of miraculous feeding, of manna in the wilderness, and the abundance of loaves and fishes, and the miracle of the wine at the wedding in Cana.

All: We come to you looking for living water. We remember the story of the woman at the well.

Leader: We ask your blessing on these ordinary elements, the bread and the juice.

All: We believe you feed us in ways that go far beyond our literal understanding.

Leader: You feed us through the awesome wonders of creation,
the joy of human love, through the blessed work of your
community working to reflect your love.

**All: You became present to us in Jesus and blessed us
further with your grace and mercy.**

Leader: You remain present to us in the working of the Holy Spirit.

All: We give you thanks. Amen

The Sharing of Bread and Wine

Leader: We remember the words from Matthew 26 verse 26:
'While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."'"

Sing: Eat this bread (Taize Hymn) – **Verse 1, 2x**

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

Please take a piece of bread as the plate is passed. We will eat it together when all have it.

Leader: We give thanks for the bread we have shared.

Leader: We remember the words from Matthew 26 verses 27,28:
'Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'

Sing: Eat this bread (Taize Hymn) – **Verse 2, 2x**

Jesus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hunger.

Jesus Christ, bread of life, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Please take a cup as the plate is passed and drink when you are ready.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy and gracious God, for the meal we have shared, for the nourishment of the spirit, for your everlasting grace, we give you thanks.

Amen

In the Garden of Gethsemane

Third Scripture: Matthew 26: 36-44

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he

said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we too have said we will stand by you and yet at times we too run away in fear.

We have said that we will love others as you taught and yet many are the times we don’t.

We have said we would offer support with our prayers, and yet so often we can be too busy to pray.

Like the disciples, we fear the unknown, we are worried about commitment, and we deny you in our daily lives at work or school.

Lord Jesus, when we face difficult decisions, help us to act responsibly and to act prayerfully.

Give us the courage to stand by you, quietly confident in the faith that you are as much with us as you were with Peter and the disciples. Amen

Closing Music - Henry Purcell 'O hear my prayer'

The words are:

Hear my prayer, O Lord:
and let my crying come unto thee.

Take a few moments for personal prayer and then leave quietly when you are ready.

Parts of this service were taken and adapted from the following resources:

[A-Short-Communion-Liturgy-for-Maundy-Thursday.pdf](#)

Preparation of the Elements [Maundy Thursday | Reformed Worship](#) (1988)

The Maundy Thursday poem by Lucy Nanson was taken from [Anglican Taonga : New Zealand's Anglican News Leader](#)

The version of 'O Hear my prayer' by Henry Purcell which was played is <https://youtu.be/Re6R5QOwjJw>