

MAUNDY THURSDAY

9th April 2020

A short act of worship for use in people's homes, provided by Mrs Erica Gassor

Have a low light on the table nearby.

Reading Psalm 116 vv 1-2 and 12-19

¹ I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.

² Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.

¹² What shall I return to the Lord
for all his goodness to me?

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁴ I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants.

¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, Lord;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.

¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank-offering to you
and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁸ I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord –
in your midst, Jerusalem.

Hymn – Light of the World (*Singing the Faith* 175)

Reading John 13 1-17 and 31b- 35

¹ 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.

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 round 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 round 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 realise 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 every one 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.

^{31b} Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ '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.

³⁴ 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

Prayer of confession and pardon

Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant.

So draw near to God and confess your sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

Most merciful God, together with your Church I confess
that often my spirit has not been that of Christ.

Where I have failed to love others as he loves me,

where I have pledged loyalty to him with my lips

and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him,

forgive me, I pray;

and by your Spirit make me faithful in every time of trial;

through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.

But Christ suffered and died for us,

was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us,

and continues to intercede for us.

Believe the good news: that in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Reflection: The servant Christ turned the World's idea of power and prestige upside down..... a leader, a prophet, the Son of God and yet He showed us how to serve others, regardless of position or possessions or standing in the community. This is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. We all need to remember our Servant King and follow his example.

Hymn: The Servant King (*Singing the Faith* 272)

Reading 1 Corinthians 11 vv 23-26.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Reflection: Jesus made that last meal so special – a way of always remembering that He died for us and each time we take the bread and wine, we remember that the bread is His body, broken for us and the wine, His blood shed for us – wow! Christ died for us so that we could have eternal life with him – no longer to fear but to live in the glorious knowledge of eternal life with our Lord and Saviour

Spend a few moments offering your own quiet prayers of confession.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Intercession

Father God I turn to you again in prayer – knowing that you are the almighty on whom I can depend. Be with those who are serving others and not counting the cost – the Servant Christ showed us how to serve. Be with those who are suffering at this time and draw them near to Christ – who experienced our suffering. Be with all those who grieve – wrap them in Christ's love. Amen.

Hymn 'Amazing Grace' (*Singing the Faith* 440)

Blessing and dismissal

Go in peace.

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, guard, keep and strengthen me this night and for ever. Amen.

Switch off the light which has been a focus during the evening and sit in quiet contemplation for a moment or two.

Acknowledgements

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