

Repairing: For Such a time as this! Maundy Thursday - Reconciliation

May God's love wrap and enfold you, embrace you and guide you, and bring you comfort. ~Julian of Norwich~



Gathering Music/Announcements: "O Man Bewail" ([BWV 402](#)). Arranged by [J.S. Bach](#). Public Domain.

Welcome!

Prelude to Worship: "[Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring,](#)" Arranged by Bach, lyrics by Janus Martin (1661). Translated by Robert Seymour Bridges. Tune, "[Werde Munter](#)" by Johann Schop in 1642.

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS

One: Jesus spent his life teaching us the meaning of love. Through word and deed Jesus showed us how to love God and to love one another. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He invited the women and the children; the tax collectors and the sinners to come to his table. He broke bread with the least and the lost and shared the cup of redemption with them all. He crossed boundaries of race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class. He challenged religious authority, and political systems. He called out the hypocrites. He admonished the scribes and the Pharisees for their hardened hearts. He brought a simple message: Love God, love yourself, and love one another.

All: We gather in the name of Jesus and remember the way that he showed us. We gather to remember not just his death, but his life.

One: The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we are not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark, night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of him. He threatens their comfort. He threatens their way of life. He threatens their power. They will come for him. First though, we will gather. We

gather with Jesus and his closest friends. We gather with those that called him teacher, Rabbi, friend. We gather for the Passover meal, to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

All: God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God who reigns, not the Pharaoh. Our God saved once. God saves forevermore.

One: Even as they were sharing this sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that he was asking much from these men, and he knew that they would fail him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman “wasted” when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas’ heart, but Jesus knew that he would be betrayed. And what did Jesus do with the man that would betray him? He broke bread with him. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked:

All: I would never betray you, Lord. It’s not me, is it?

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING - John 13:1-17, 31b-35

¹ 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. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ 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.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” ¹² 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? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

DISCUSSION 1

Imagine yourself in this upper room with Jesus and his friends:

- With whom do you identify? How do you feel?
- Peter resists Jesus' service of footwashing. Would you?
- Are you surprised that Jesus included Judas in the footwashing?
- What would it take to offer a service of love to someone who hurt or betrayed you?
- What manner of love does Jesus model and command of us?

Music: [What Wonderful Love is This](#), *Anonymous Composer and Lyricist, around 1835. Lyrics rewritten by The New Century Hymnal, ©1995 by The Pilgrim Press. NCH Song# 223.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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

DISCUSSION 2

Think about the sacraments of communion:

- What elements or parts of Holy communion do you feel are the most important, the parts that make it most sacred to you?
- Does anyone have any memories or stories related to meals that you would like to share?
- What stories or memories do you have of past communion experiences?
- How can we embrace the living Christ, breaking bread together, living as Christ did and being a beacon to our community and world?

Holy Communion - We share in the feast together.

JOURNEY TOWARDS THE CROSS

One: When the holy meal had been shared, the disciples began to argue over which one would be the greatest. Even here, at the end of their time together, they did not seem to understand what Jesus had been teaching them all along. He reminded them that to be great in the Kingdom of God meant to serve. After Jesus' talk of betrayal, the disciples' argument, and Jesus' rebuke of them, the disciples seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:

All: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

One: And Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me."

Contemplative Music: "[There is a Green Hill Far Away](#)," Lyrics by Cecil Frances Alexander in 1848. Tune, "Meditation" by John H. Gower in 1890. Public Domain.

One: Afterwards, Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray for him, for he wanted to be alone.

Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

Go out into the night, may you be always transformed into the image of Christ. Just as Jesus honored God by placing God's will above his own, may God be glorified through our lives. Be of good courage! Trust in God in whom we have salvation and hope.

