



Blessings and peace to all this Holy Week. An email with a link to the Maundy Thursday worship service will be sent on Thursday, April 9. This email contains information about preparing for the Maundy Thursday worship service.

An email with a link to the Good Friday worship service will be sent on Friday, April 10. An email with a link to the Easter worship service will be sent in the early evening on Saturday, April 11.

Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Collect for Monday in Holy Week: (Book of Common Prayer, p. 220)

Indian Hill Church

Virtual Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 9, 2020

The Thursday before Easter is known as Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday. The name is derived from the Latin word for 'command' and refers to Jesus' commandment to the disciples to "love one another as I have loved you." On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples where he breaks bread and pours wine, offers them to his disciples saying, "do this remembering me."

At Indian Hill Church, it has been our custom to gather in the Guild Hall and remember this meal together – in community. But this year Maundy Thursday is very different as we are all sheltered in place. This Virtual Maundy Thursday Service is put together from

different sources and we offer it to you and your family so that, at your kitchen or dining room table, you may engage in moments of remembering – by reading Scripture, listening to music, reflecting on the meaning of this holy day, and praying for each other and our world. If you live alone and many of you do, please know that you can fully participate too. So, as we worship this night, we are joined by our sisters and brothers in the faith all over the world. May God bless you, your family, our Church Family, our community and this worship time as we receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.

What is Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, Latin for commandment) proclaims Jesus' new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It celebrates Christ's example of humble service and self-sacrifice, represented by the washing of feet and the sharing of communion. *The liturgy begins with an emphasis on confession and forgiveness, concluding the penitential season of Lent. It ends with the stripping of the church in preparation for worship on Good Friday. However, this year we will not be able to enact every aspect as would in years past do to the shelter-in-place order.*

The Last Supper was a Passover meal; Jesus was a Jew and observed the Jewish holy days. Jesus and his disciples ate unleavened bread to commemorate the exodus of the Jews from Egypt; when the people left Egypt so quickly, there was no time for the bread to rise.

We also associate foot washing with Maundy Thursday. In John 13, Jesus washes his disciples' feet, teaching them to be servants. Washing their feet is the ultimate symbol of servant leadership.

There's also a dark side to Maundy Thursday. As he shares the meal with his disciples, he points towards his death by declaring he will not eat again until the Reign of God is fulfilled. And he acknowledges that one of his loved ones will betray him.

Preparing for Worship: Bread Making

Supplies: Bread recipe, ingredients, oven

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' last meal by sharing Communion as a community. In this season, since we are not able to celebrate with Holy Communion, we invite you to do the next best thing: prepare a loaf of bread at home. Have a sourdough starter? Make sourdough! Missing yeast? Make muffins or scones! Have a sweet tooth? Make cookies! Don't want to go shopping? Use whatever ingredients you have!



It doesn't have to be perfect. God will show up anyway.

The point of this exercise is to be in the kitchen, to put your hands to work, and to allow your preparation process to be a prayer.

If you are baking bread, please start preparing the bread dough. Here is an easy white bread recipe:

[Click here for a basic white bread recipe](#)

[Click here for a video of Elliott Caine Blessing the Bread](#)

Before you put the bread in the oven, say this prayer.

Blessing: A Prayer to Bless the Bread

Holy God,
Your last meal was an ordinary meal—
Simple bread and juice, nothing fancy;
And yet, it was holy.
It was holy because all were welcomed at your table—
Even the one who would betray you.
So today we prepare our own bread as a form of prayer.
And in our kneading and mixing,
In our measuring and waiting,
In our recipe-card-reading and taste-testing,
We remember you.
As these ingredients mix,
May our hearts mix with yours.
And as this bread rises,
May our awareness of you rise.
And as this bread is shared,
May your love be shared.
With hope and gratitude we pray, Amen.

*Poem written by: Sarah Are | sanctifiedart.org

Preparing for Worship: Setting the Table and Foot Washing Preparation

You are encouraged to include your Maundy Thursday worship as part of your evening meal. Set a time for all who will be at your table to gather for the meal.

1. Set the table with real dishes and silverware.
2. Create a centerpiece or worship focal point. You might include:
 - A cross of another symbol of faith
 - A Bible
 - A candle(s) (lighter/ matches)
 - Lighter/matches
 - A special plate and cup for your Bread and Wine or Grape Juice

- Bread
 - Wine or Grape Juice
3. A Pitcher of Water, a basin and a towel for foot washing

You will receive an email with a link to the Maundy Thursday worship service on Thursday, April 9. Below you will find instructions for footwashing and reflection questions for your family dinner. You might want to print the reflection questions out for easier discussion. You may want to mark John 13:1-17 in your Bible before your worship service begins.

Footwashing and Dinner Reflection Questions



You are invited to take part in the washing of feet, a sign of Christ's love and care for us and of the humble service to which we are called as Christ's disciples.

One person begins by washing the feet of one person, pouring water over the feet and drying them with a towel; and then each wash one another's feet.

Transition to the supper table

Light a candle in the center of the table as a reminder that this is a space set apart. This meal is a reminder of the promises made to us in the sacrament of Communion—that all belong to God, that God's love is stronger than death, and that one day, all will be fed.

During your meal, reflect on the **Gospel Reading John 13:1-17** ([Click here for the Gospel reading](#)) and the foot washing experience.

Questions for reflection:

1. Reflect back to past meals and moments around your supper table. What meals have been memorable? What gatherings made you feel welcomed? Have you ever had a memorable Communion experience? What made it memorable?
2. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus fed and shared a meal with all of his disciples, even Judas who would soon betray him? What does that teach us about God?
3. Jesus gives thanks for the bread before breaking it. What things do you give thanks for in your life? Share them with those gathered at the table.
4. What is the invitation to you in this passage?
5. What is the challenge to you in this passage?

Tip for young families: Invite each child at the table to reflect on their favorite dinner blessing and sing/say it together. Point out that Jesus also offers a blessing to God for the bread before he and his disciples eat, so when we say grace, we are being like Jesus.