

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Cornwall

Thursday, March 29, 2018

7:00 p.m.



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Maundy Thursday

Call to Worship

This is the day,
that Christ gathered with his disciples in an upper room.

This is the day,
that Christ shared a meal as a sign of his great love.

This is the day,
*that Christ took a towel and washed the disciple's feet
and showed us how to serve others.*

This is the day,
that the Lord has made.

Silence

God has delivered us from bondage and has set us free.
This is a night of remembrance.

Silence

This is a night to reflect on our faith.
Bread was and will be broken; wine was and will be poured.
This is a night to journey to our past.

Silence

A new commandment has been given; Love on another.
This is a night to reclaim our story.

Silence

Through these acts, we remember that our story lives on.
This is a night of remembrance.

Hymn

Open my eyes, that I might see

500

Shared Prayer

God of our ancestors,
we have come tonight to remember.
We have come to recall your saving power
and your steadfast love for all people.
We have come to the Upper Room with Jesus:
To be washed, to be fed, to be taught,
and to follow his example of service and sacrifice.
Through our words and through our actions,
draw us into the sacred story of faith once again,
that we might love and serve one another
as your disciples. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 26: 26-30

NT pg. 28

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God for His Word to us.

Hymn

Lord of all power

626

Meditation

What Shall We Do With Jesus

The Invitation

Prayer

Remembering the Story

Hymn

Here is bread: here is wine

546

Sharing the Gifts of God for the People of God

Prayer after Communion

Give me, O God, a steadfast heart,
which will not be drawn down
by unworthy distractions;
Give me a courageous heart,
which no trivial matter may divert.
Give me understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
and faithfulness that will finally
embrace you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

A new commandment

225

Benediction

*Please leave the sanctuary in silence
as you continue your meditation.*

An offering plate is at each exit if you wish to leave a gift

Good Friday Service will be held tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

A Time Called...Maundy Thursday

We speak of the church year, but break it into smaller bits like Lent. A still smaller bit of Lent is Holy Week, and an even smaller bit is Maundy Thursday. At each step our focus sharpens as we move from a wide-angle lens to a close-up shot. Through today's lens we see the events of Maundy Thursday.

The name "Maundy-Thursday" comes from the Latin *mandatum novum* ("new commandment"—John 13:34) from the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. A footwashing service dates to the 7th Century when bishops and abbots used it to symbolize their servanthood. Now it is for any and all. A celebration of the Lord's Supper in commemoration of its institution dates to the 4th Century. In our tradition, however, the celebration of the Lord's Supper always goes beyond historical concerns to its fullest meaning as a sacrament. Possibly the oldest act (now extinct) was a public reconciliation for the penitents prior to readmission to communion at Easter. The stripping of the chancel and sanctuary of any decoration and colour has possible origins in 7th Century Spain.

Finding Meaning In The Tradition - These riches are a lot to put into one service. Perhaps one thing will stand out for us. In the footwashing we might see that it is not the act which gives meaning, but who's doing it that carries the message of radical servanthood. In the Lord's Supper we may focus on God's gifts strengthening us to face tomorrow in faith. We remember the commandment to love one another and ask for a new beginning in love. We can remove the colour and decoration of our sanctuary, symbolizing the colour and creativity that left the world when Jesus died—leaving that story to stand unadorned.

Questions For Personal Meditation

1. In what ways am I learning to love?
2. Is it harder for me to serve another, or let another serve me? Where is Jesus asking for growth?
3. What, for me, is the link between the Lord's Supper and this time in Holy Week?
4. If things of colour and decoration were removed from the sanctuary, how did that affect me?

God's people in this congregation give thanks for your companionship this day. Continue your spiritual journey through Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Speak to a minister or an elder if you need to talk about the events of this week.