

Maundy Thursday - April 9, 2020

St. Albert United Church

Opening Prayers and Scriptures found on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJhJF36UMcQ>

COMMUNITY WELCOME:

Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to St. Albert United Church on this Maundy Thursday as we gather through the wonder of virtual means.

As we come together, we acknowledge that we do so in the traditional lands of Treaty 6 First Nations and a significant trading community of the Métis Nation.

We also affirm all are welcome to share fully in our life and work regardless of age, race, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, belief, economic circumstance, ability or background.

If you have a concern regarding someone who is ill, grieving or in need, please inform the ministers.

Note that for the songs/hymns there is a link for the words and music. Simply copy and paste.

We gather, cultivating space for everyone...

WORDS OF WELCOME

Tonight, we gather, alone and yet together. We are together to remember the events of long ago, as Jesus gathered with his disciples to share the Passover meal together. But we are alone, a reminder that the disciples also were scattered by the end of the evening. We live with the hope that we will be together again, and we live with the hope of resurrection. But on this night, we pause in the evening, as the sun sets, and remember how one by one, the faithful disciples failed. They acted out of fear. They acted out of anger.

They acted out of an innate human desire to save themselves at all cost. On this night, we remember how Christ came for us, how Christ broke bread and shared the cup, how Christ laid down his life for us that we might know forgiveness, that we might know that death does not have the final word.

Liturgy created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER:

the gathering of the dark
the breaking of the bread
the pouring of the wine
the telling of the story
the preparing of the lies
the beating of the heart
the making of the covenant
the turning towards the cross
the rumours of death
the whisper of night
the shimmer of grace
the snap of twigs
the flash of eyes
the moment of turning
and the kiss

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws.

<http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

HYMN: "To Show by Touch and Word"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmVRgZWPIXg>

CALL TO RECONCILIATION:

How is it people will recognize us as followers of Jesus? Simply by how we treat one another. Let us confess how we have not loved as Christ loves us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Creator and Loving God, you kneel to wash our feet, yet we are reluctant for you to see all the places we have gone in our attempts to escape you. You would bathe us in the warm, living waters of your love, and though we splash and play in the puddles of temptation.

We have received all the gifts you have to offer, yet we are tempted to think they are only for us, rather than sharing them.

Forgive us, Holy One, and have mercy on us. What can we give you for all your wonderful graciousness towards us? As you have broken your heart for us, may we open ours in service to others. As you have given your life for us, may we offer ours to bring healing to the world. As you have called us together around your Table, may we go forth to feed a world hungry, not only for food, but for that Spirit which brings peace and reconciliation. This we pray as servants of Jesus Christ, who came to serve us in life, in death, in resurrection hope.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

On this holiest of nights, we have received the good news: God has come in Christ Jesus, to fill us with hope and peace, to bathe us in grace and mercy.

In remembrance, we go forth:

to bring hope where despair resides;

to be servants to those who are broken;

to love as selflessly as we are loved by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Submitted by Rev. Thom Shuman, author of [Lectionary Liturgies](#).

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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A reading from the Hebrew Scriptures:

The First Passover Instituted

Exodus 12:1-4 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Exodus 12:11-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the Gospels:

John 13:1-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

13 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,[a] 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,^[b] but is entirely clean. And you^[c] 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^[d] 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.

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

John 13:31-35 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The New Commandment

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,^[a] 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.”

SILENT REFLECTION:

We take a few moments to reflect on all we have heard.

PRAYER BEFORE FOOTWASHING: *(inspired by John 13:1-17)*

Merciful Savior,

We have traveled this long, dusty Lenten journey.

Our feet are tired, dirty, aching, and calloused.

You have shown us Your love
by becoming a humble servant.

Humble us when we try to travel without You.

As Christ has washed us,
so let us wash one another.

Humble us when we believe some work is below us.

As Christ has washed us,
so let us wash one another.

Humble us when we are too proud
to accept help, or care, or love.

As Christ has washed us,
so let us wash one another.

Humble us when we do not fully receive
the gift of Your amazing and bountiful grace.

As Christ has washed us,
so let us wash one another. Amen.

~ written by Karen Turner, and posted the Lifeway website.

http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_LW_MaundyThursday.pdf

FOOTWASHING: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CekaMlt7lzo>

PRAYER AFTER FOOTWASHING: *(inspired by John 13: 1-20)*

Blessed are you, Lord God.

The basin and the towel are signs to us of your Son's servanthood.

You have made us partakers of Christ and of one another.

As we go forth, give us grace
to count others more important than ourselves,
to love our enemies,
to make peace.

Send the Spirit of truth to keep alive in us
what Jesus taught and did,
that our words may carry his good news, and
that our lives may bear the shape of the cross
of the One who lives and reigns with You
and with the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen.

— from A Footwashing Liturgy by Reggie M. Kidd.

The Institution of the Lord’s Supper

14 When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. 15 He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I tell you, I will not eat it[c] until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” 17 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” 19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.[d]

SILENT REFLECTION:

We take a few moments to reflect on all we have heard.

HYMN: “An Upper Room did Our Lord Prepare”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzlreqrzB_s

INVITATION TO THE SUPPER:

The celebration of communion
is always a festival of friends,
a pulling together of our loves and our hopes,
our moments of agony and our glimpses of victory.
It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared,
that we can most fully be ourselves
and see others for who they truly are:
sons and daughters of the living God.
Here the common things of life—
bread and wine,
memories and dreams—
become holy, touched by God.
Here that which is earthly becomes divine,
and that which is human
becomes more than it has ever dreamed

PRAYER OF INVITATION:

We believe that bread comes from grain
that grows in the wind and the sun and the rain
with the farmers' help.

We believe that bread comes from love
the love of God
the love of the farmer
the love of the baker's hands
the love of those who bring it to us.

We believe that bread can be
and should be broken
and shared
and given to all persons
until all have enough.

We believe that Jesus loved bread
and took it
and broke it

and blessed it
and gave it to his disciples.

We believe enough in bread
to want to receive it from Jesus
to want it to nurture us.

We want to be bread for others.

We believe the Spirit will help us.

Amen.

~ excerpted from Liturgy for sharing bread and wine by Frank Henderson. Posted on the Third Space website. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>

SHARING THE SUPPER:

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Child: Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

Adult: We give thanks because God is always with us.

Loving God,
you made this wonderful world
for us to enjoy.

You showed our ancestors
how to care for one another.

You gave us Jesus to be our friend
and to bring us closer to you.

He died on a cross
but you brought him to life,
to live with us forever.

You send us your Spirit
and bring us to this table
so that we can share your love.

For all your goodness we give you thanks;
and together we give you praise.

Words of Institution for Maundy Thursday (*John 13, 15*)

When Jesus knew that his hour had come,
he gathered with his friends for a meal.
Getting up from the table,
he tied a towel around himself and washed their feet.
And, after he had finished, he said,
“I have set an example for you;
do as I have done to you.”
Then he took bread, blessed it,
and gave it, saying,
“I am the Bread of Life.
Do this to remember me.”
And he blessed the cup,
and gave it to them saying,
“I am the True Vine.
Drink of this cup to remember me.”
Then he gave them a new commandment, saying,
“Love one another as I have loved you.
By this everyone will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

BREAKING BREAD AND SHARING JUICE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJhJF36UMcQ>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Gracious God,
As those who strive to follow Jesus in our living
and to trust your power in our dying,
we gather to reflect upon the life that ended on a cross.
We recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples:
although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal
 Jesus washed their feet in service, and then
 extended the bread and cup to each.
 Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very
 life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.
 We are humbled, honored and inspired
 by the deep love Christ extended to the world,
 and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.
 Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you,
 and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful living.
 Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it,
 with love and compassion for each creature and all of your creation.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray to you. . .
 Our Father. . . .

— from *Come and Remember: Prayers for Maundy Thursday*, written by Rev. Kelly Burd. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website.

HYMN: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygz5fF5lcGI>

Matthew 26:36-46 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;^[e] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

SILENT REFLECTION:

We take a few moments to reflect on all we have heard.

SHARING OF GIFTS

It is very important that we remember to continue to share our gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God’s people. Please, consider continuing to support agencies and associations which have relied on your financial support prior to these changing world circumstances. We recognize that during these difficult times, personal finances may be severely diminished. However, please consider contributing financially as you are able to support St. Albert United Church’s ministry. Expenses continue even with the suspension of services and operations.

Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources.

(www.stalbertunited.ca)

SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD’S WORK

Reach out in a variety of ways to your family, friends, and fellow congregation members—connect with and support each other.

Please check the church website for updates and information.

(www.stalbertunited.ca)

HYMN: “There in God’s Garden” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFGne7VGpMY>

CLOSING PRAYER:

O Jesus, in this Holy Week you prayed
that we would love one another
as you have loved us.

Tonight we have tried to practice what you have taught us!

Let the love, joy and humility
we have known here with our families
continue to bless us,

and let us share that blessing with world
you love and gave your life for.

May the peace we feel together in this place

Point us toward the hope of Easter.

Amen.

— from *With Humility and Joy: Footwashing Service for Families*, written by Lutie O. Lee, Minister for Children and Families, Worship and Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH: (*John 1:1-5*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Go in peace.

Amen.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE



The Last Supper Coloring Page



