



Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Maundy Thursday Meditation

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

The Israelites cried out to God in their oppression.

Their voices still echo around the globe:

in India, Sudan, Mexico, and in American cities.

God hears the cries of the suffering,
and delivers those who wait on God.

**All who suffer, who die, who are alienated
are precious to God;**

**Let us love the Lord who restores liberty,
And gives us hope for peace.**

Today we remember the One who gave himself for us,
Jesus the Christ.

Let us worship God!

* *Opening Hymn* “*God of Grace and God of Glory*” vs1,2,4

Mt Hope PH #366 Greenfield CH #435 Grace TH #287

Gathering Prayer

Jesus, Lamb of God, we bless you today,
remembering what you have done for us.

You poured out your life to show us the love of God.

Today we celebrate your gift of life
as we somberly recall your death
and exult in your resurrection.

Amen.

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-17 NIV

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 around 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 around 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 realize 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. He asked them

"Do you understand what I have done for you? 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."

Prayer of Confession

Giver of Life, from time immemorial you call us to yourself.

In ways too numerous to mention, we fail to respond.

Forgive us, we pray.

Our limited understanding of culture
gets in the way of fellowship
with those different from ourselves.

Our limited vision of community
gets in the way of your call
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to seek justice and peace for all.

Replace our arrogance, Merciful One,
with the humility and caring service Jesus modeled,
for truly we are not greater than our Teacher and Savior.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

God gives us grace and more grace.

Be assured of this truth, that in Christ you are forgiven!

* *Meditation Hymn* “*There is Power in the Blood*”

Mt Hope VH #125

Greenfield CH #329

Grace VH #125

Maundy Thursday Litany

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

**I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry of
mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him
as long as I live.**

God of mercy, with tears we call to remembrance the night in
which you were betrayed, when you gave yourself to your
disciples under the forms of bread and wine and stooped to wash
their feet. May our hearts be so transformed by your self-giving
love that we allow ourselves to be broken for others.

**How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will
lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the
Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of
all his people.**

**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son
of your faithful son; you have freed me from my chains.**

Let us ever glory in the cross of Christ, our salvation and our hope.
Let us bow in homage to the Lord of Life, who was broken to
make us whole.

Let us make our journey to the cross of Christ, who surrendered
glory and grace to become a servant, that all people may know
God.

**I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of
the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence
of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord – in
the midst, O Jerusalem.**

Praise the Lord!

Great Spirit God, you have placed death behind us and life before
us in Christ Jesus:

**There is one source of sin:
our rebellion against you, O God ...
There is one source of salvation:
your holy grace given us in Jesus Christ ...**

**Move us to repent, and forgive us for your Son's sake,
O Lord God, our Salvation ...**

Silent Reflection

Meditation

* *Closing Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #4

“To God Be the Glory”

Greenfield CH #56

Grace VH #4

* *Benediction*

Go out into the night,
contemplating what Jesus faced on that fateful Friday.
Make note of what you experienced this evening.
May you be continually 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.

The Altar is Stripped

Originally, the stripping was done on Maundy Thursday in order that the cloths and the altar might receive their once-a-year wash in preparation for Easter. Tonight, the stripping of the altar is symbolic of the way in which Christ was stripped of his clothing and his dignity before his crucifixion.

The Christ candle is extinguished. The church is in darkness. The service continues with the Virtual Good Friday Service tomorrow at 7:00 PM. Remain praying or mediating as long as needed.