

Worship at Home – Maundy Thursday 14th April

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Servant King, as we remember that night you washed the disciples feet, may we always be ready to serve you. As we remember what happened on night you were betrayed, may we always be ready to trust and follow you. As we remember the night you came together with your friends, help us to know that you are always with us, no matter where we are. Amen.

Hymn: From Heaven you came, helpless babe (StF 272)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4963QPHAIM>

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him,

each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Let us pray together

Loving God,
Thank you for showing us the way to live
unselfishly and unreservedly, thank you for
showing us the way of self-sacrificial love,
which reaches out with compassion to all who
need it. On this day where we remember your
last supper with your disciples, help us to
remember that whatever we do in your name
for any of our brothers and sisters, we do for
you. Help us to honour you with every part of
ourselves, and every part of our lives. We are
sorry for the times that we get it wrong, or
lose sight of what is important, or left things
undone, and we ask your forgiveness, that we
might be transformed in to what you created
us to be.

This is Christ's gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven'.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

**Today's Reading from the Old or New
Testament** Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Today's Gospel Reading: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Time to Reflect

I have experienced Maundy Thursday in various ways over the years, but perhaps the most significant was the year I was in Jerusalem on this day, as part of an interfaith study trip with students and staff from my university. We had travelled all over the Holy

Land, stopping and praying in some of the places named in the Bible as places that Jesus visited, like the desert, and the sea of Galilee. On Maundy Thursday, when the sun went down, we sat quietly in the Garden of Gethsemane. We were joined by members of the community, and when everyone was gathered we sang hymns quietly together. This was a moving experience which led most of us to tears. We remembered together that night that Jesus shared his last meal with his close friends, the disciples, and thinking ahead to what was to come. That night, Jesus served his disciples through washing their feet, and by serving them a simple meal, urging them to remember what he was about to do. The Methodist Diaconal order is represented by the symbol of the bowl and towel, reminding Deacons of the ministry of service to others. This is a ministry that isn't limited just to Deacons but one which we are all called to in various ways, be it phoning someone who is lonely, serving refreshments at chapel, going out on the streets as Street Pastors do and serving the needy. Each of us has a specific gift given to us by God, and a choice about how to use this. I wonder what your gift of service is?

Take some time to sit quietly before God and hold your gifts before God, rededicating yourself on this day of remembering. If you would find it helpful, reflect on this image.



A time of prayer

Christ, as you knelt and washed your disciples feet, you taught us how to humble ourselves and serve others. Help us to recognise our gifts, that

they may be used to serve others.

Christ, as you broke bread, and shared it with your disciples, help us to remember those who are hungry and in need. May we hunger for justice, and find ways to end poverty throughout the earth.

Christ, as you took the cup, and shared with your friends, help us to thirst for unity in the church, and help us to show your unconditional welcome to all.

Christ, as you were betrayed by one closest to you, we pray for those situations where hurt and pain have been caused. We pray your healing love in to these situations. We pray for our nation, and for those in authority, that they may pursue goodness and mercy.

Christ, as you knelt in the garden and wept, we pray for those who are broken hearted and despairing, that your peace and love may be known. We pray for those who are dying or bereaved, that your presence may be felt closely. We long for the day where peace rules and every tear is wiped away. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to A New Commandment I give unto you (StF 242)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2X8m9tVRO_Y

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.

A prayer of blessing

Loving Lord, you show us the way of loving service, help us to live our lives for you, that we may serve others in all that we say and all that we do. We ask this in your name, knowing that you hear our prayers. Amen.

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team.

For more worship resources see

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://The Bible (methodist.org.uk))

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://Singing the Faith Plus (methodist.org.uk))

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The First Passover Instituted

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 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. 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 judgements: I am the LORD. 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.

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.

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of

Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' 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.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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." 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.'

<https://bible.oremus.org/>

Images taken from Pixabay

<https://pixabay.com/photos/passover-maundy-thursday-last-supper-5067642/>