

Maundy Thursday – 9th April 2020

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10) 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2,12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Prelude

Song: Lord Jesus Christ, TiS 737

*Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.*

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Saide

And also with you.

As we gather, I acknowledge the people of the Wurundjeri-Willam, the white gum tree clan in the Woi Wurrung language territory of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land beneath our feet since time immemorial. On your behalf, I offer honour and respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Our service this evening has been pre-recorded using videos provided by myself, Amelia, Valentina, Dave and audio recordings from Matthew, Lydia, Michael and the musicians coordinated by Alistair. We hope you have a bowl of water and towels, bread and juice and five candles with you.

Foot and Hand Washing

Gospel reading: John 13:1-17

Saide

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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."
¹²After 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?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have

set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus says 'Take up your cross and follow me'
By your strength in me, O God

Song: Kneels at the feet of his friends, TiS 640

1. *Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet:
master who acts as a slave to them.*

*Yesu, yesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*
 2. *Neighbours are wealthy and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near us and far away.*
 3. *These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbours to us and you.*
 4. *Loving puts us on our knees,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.*
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Prayer

Amelia

Let us pray.

Jesus, our teacher and our Lord,
in darkness we come to this quiet place of reflection
to remember the final events of your life.
As you draw nearer to the cross,
we draw near to you.

Listening to the familiar accounts of your disciples,
we seek new understanding,
to reduce the distance between our lives and yours.

You come as a messenger from the Lord,
to hear our voices and our supplications.
Therefore we know that we can call on the Lord as long as we live.
As you come from God and are going to God,
We listen to how we might follow your example of loving to the end,
with humility and grace, both personal and divine.

As we become servants to one another;
share a communal meal;
pray to God in the darkness;
help us to listen fully and nurture what we find.
Trusting in the knowledge
that understanding may come later,

that through our walk with you,
we may find light in the darkness. Amen

Hand & foot washing invitation

Dave

On this holy, sacred night, we are moving in to a time of washing – foot washing, or hand washing.

I invite you now, if you'd like, to gather a bowl with water, and a towel. We'll give you a few moments to do this.

While we are waiting for others to return, you may wish to look closely at your hands. To pay attention to their distinct lines, finger prints, wrinkles, cuts, scars, blemishes. Your hands, hands that we are washing diligently now, as a way of serving and caring for others. Or your feet, so often covered, and hidden away, a source of shame for many, and yet Jesus' kneels at the feet of Peter, holds his feet, and washes them.

Just like when we are physically at Brunswick Uniting Church, we give you the option of either footwashing or hand washing, or sitting quietly in prayer.

You can wash your own hands or feet, or those of someone from your household. As you do so, you may wish to pray, focussing on the humble, servant leadership of Jesus.

Where he travelled with his feet... the dusty and rocky paths of Galilee and Judea.

The way he used his hands, his healing hands, the people he touched and cured, and gave life to.

While this sacred washing is taking place, we will listen to The Basin and the Towel.

Holy Communion

In the Gospel of Luke we read

Saide

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." (Luke 22:13-16)

Let us join him at the table, each in our own homes.

Song: [Lord Jesus Christ](#), TiS 737 **recording needed**

*Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.*

Communion liturgy

Valentina

Today is another day on our journey towards resurrection.

I invite you to take a moment or two to set up the table for our communion.

Your table will probably be different, and it is ok. You will need some fabric, some bread, and some juice. I will let you gather these as I bring what I have gathered here for this time.

Let us set up our table

(put fabric first then the loaf of bread and then the large cup and several small cups)

This Maundy Thursday while what is before me/before us will be different. What we are to remember is that we are gathered around God's table. Wherever we may be, we are gathered around God's table. You may be by yourself or you may be with others in your home.

We may feel disconnected but know that we are connected and united as God's people through the God's Spirit.

During this time around God's table you will be invited to respond with words that you will hear me say and these may also appear on your screen.

When we break bread, you will be invited to break bread and eat I invite you to break it and share it with others as appropriate at the time. When we come to the cup, you are invited to drink from your cups as appropriate at the time.

We partake of the table knowing that we do this in remembrance of Christ.

Let us remember it is God's table and we come to the table as invited by Christ.

Christ invites us to this holy meal tonight.

Just as we are, pilgrims on the way of the cross.

We bring our struggles and questions and doubts,
our needs and hopes, our hunger and thirst.

We come to hold one another and be held here.

Feel free to participate as you are comfortable doing.

This meal does not depend on our understanding or familiarity,
but on the compassionate grace of God.

Thanksgiving

First, we say thank you to God.

*I invite you to say the words, **Thank you God!***

For all your gifts to us in creation...

Thank you, God!

For loving the world so much that you came to be with us in Jesus teacher, healer, liberator...

Thank you, God!

For helping us every day by your Holy Spirit in us, fire of faith and breath of love...

Thank you, God!

Next, we tell a story to remember Jesus. In it Jesus says: **Remember me**

*I invite you to say the words **remember me***

On the night before he died, Jesus was having a meal with his disciples.

He took a loaf of bread from the table, said thank you to God,

broke it into pieces and gave it to his friends saying,

This is my body given for you.

Whenever you eat it, **remember me.**

Break bread

After they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and shared it with them saying,

This is my blood poured out in love,

so that no one will ever be separate from God.

Whenever you drink it, **remember me.**

Lift cup

Like Jesus, we break this bread. And usually we share with all gathered here in this space in our church.

Today when we are scattered geographically and there are the many pieces of bread that each of us have. We pray that in and through the Holy Spirit we are all connected and gathered and made as one – one body, one community, one family, one with Jesus on the way of the cross.

*Now we pray and I invite us to say the words, **Come Holy Spirit** as we hold our hands out (as we are able...)*

We pray to the Holy Spirit.

On this bread

Come Holy Spirit

On this cup

Come Holy Spirit

On us all

Come Holy Spirit

Make us one – one with Jesus, one with each other, one family of God.

In the name of God who loves us: **Amen!**

In the name of Jesus who saves us: **Amen!**

in the name of the Holy Spirit who helps us every day: **Amen!**

Please join me in saying our Lord's Prayer

Lord's prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,
your will be done,**

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours**

now and for ever. Amen.

You are invited to take a piece of bread as we partake together saying these words...

This bread is the **Bread of Life**. (We eat)

You are invited to take your cup as we partake together saying these words

This cup is the **Cup of Hope** (We drink)

People to partake as able

Prayer

Valentina

God of life, God hope,

In our dispersed states we are connected with each other through the Holy Spirit

We follow in the steps of Jesus in loving one another even while we are apart.

In this act of eating and drinking

we are reminded that you are our life and you bring us hope.

We pray that this nourishment sustain us

Until we gather again to do this in remembrance of Jesus

Until we hunger and thirst no more

In the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Song: As we take this bread, NCYC 99

As we take this bread to eat,

As our lips sip on tis wine,

I will celebrate new life in me, and in you,

And through Jesus Christ we know,

God's love flows throughout our lives,

Like a river that flows into the sea.

Tenebrae

Saide: We continue our Holy Week journey following Jesus into the deepening darkness of his last night. We will hear the story in five parts from Luke's gospel, and we will join in with a sung response after each. If you have candles ready at home please light them now as we sing together to begin.

Sung response:

Song: Stay with me, Taize, ATO 395

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watching and praying, watching and praying.*

First Reading: Luke 22:31-34

Then Jesus said to them, 'You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

'Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.' And he said to him, 'Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!' Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.'

Join me as we extinguish our first candles singing 'stay with me' ...

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watching and praying, watching and praying.*

Second Reading: Luke 22:39-41

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.'

Join me as we extinguish our second candles singing 'stay with me' ...

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watching and praying, watching and praying.*

Third Reading: Luke 22:43-46

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

Join me as we extinguish our third candles singing 'stay with me' ...

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watching and praying, watching and praying.*

Fourth Reading: Luke 22:47-51

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?' When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him.

Join me as we extinguish our fourth candles singing 'stay with me' ..!

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watching and praying, watching and praying.*

Fifth (final) Reading: Luke 22:52-53

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!'

Join me as we extinguish fifth candles as we sing 'stay with me' ...

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watching and praying, watching and praying.*

Jesus says 'Take up your cross and follow me'
By your strength in me, O God

Saide

Blessing

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness
and illumine your people. (BCW43)

Saide

This service continues on Good Friday
and concludes on Easter Sunday.

Go in peace.

As Christ loved you, love one another.

Remain in stillness where you are as we conclude this time together, praying as we sing Julia Potter's beautiful song 'In Darkness'.

Sending Song

In Darkness – Julia Potter

*The night is dark and lonely
stay with me 'til the dawn.
In silence and in anguish,
come stay with me 'til the dawn.
Be at my side while the night is still,
come stay with me until the dawn*
