

A recollection of the Passion of Jesus for Maundy Thursday

Compiled by Rev Eileen Appleyard.

This is a simple service of hymns and Bible readings which can be used on Maundy Thursday Evening.

I shall use this at about 7.30pm but any time that is suitable for you is OK.

I suggest you move through the items slowly and with contemplation, pausing after each Bible event to visualise the scene before moving on.

It might be a good idea to read each hymn aloud rather than try to sing as sometimes the words can then be even more powerful and reflective.

The Bible Readings are mainly from John's Gospel

To help set the scene you might like to prepare a biscuit or small piece of cake and a drink of water as a centrepiece and in order to participate in the supper Jesus had with his friends if you wish to do so.

A greeting: Grace and peace are ours from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Though separated we are united in God's love.

[Hymn 272: From Heaven you came, helpless Babe](#)

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

Prayer.

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the Supper which your Son gave to his Church.
Even though we are separated and confined to our own homes, nourish us, we pray, by his presence, and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

John 12:1-8 Jesus is anointed with costly perfume

Six days before the Passover festival Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. They gave a supper in his honour, at which Martha served, and Lazarus was among the guests with Jesus. Then Mary brought a pound of very costly perfume, pure oil of nard, and anointed Jesus's feet and wiped them with her hair, till the house was filled with the fragrance. At this, Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples - the one who was to betray him - protested, 'could not this perfume have been sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' He said this not out of any concern for the poor, but because he was a thief; he had charge of the common purse and used to pilfer the money kept in it. 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you have always among you, but you will not always have me.'

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

[Hymn 265: Ride on, ride on in Majesty!](#)

Ride on ride on, in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna' cry;
your humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne,
Expects his own anointed Son

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your power, and reign. Henry Hart Milman

John 12:12-16 Jesus rides into Jerusalem

The next day the great crowd of pilgrims who had come for the festival, hearing that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem, went out to meet him with palm branches in their hands, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!' Jesus found a donkey and mounted it, in accordance with the words of scripture: 'Fear no more, daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, mounted on a donkey's colt.' At the time his disciples did not understand this, but after Jesus had been glorified they remembered that this had been written about him and that it had happened to him.

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

John 12: 27-28, 31-33 Jesus reflects on the path he must take.

'Now my soul is in turmoil, and what am I to say? "Father save me from this hour?" No it was for this that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' A voice came from heaven: 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

Jesus said, 'This voice spoke for your sake not mine. Now is the hour of judgement for this world; now shall the prince of this world be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth I shall draw everyone to myself.' This he said to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

[Hymn 266 All the room was hushed and still](#)

All the room was hushed and still,
and when the bowl was filled
he stooped to wash their feet.
And when it was complete,

He said, this is what I'm asking you to do,
this is why I'm kneeling here beside you
this is what I want my church to be,
this is what I want the world to see -
who it is you follow.

*Love each other,
One another.
Love each other
In the way that I have loved you.
Walk together
and whatever comes
love each other in the way that I have loved you.*

Let the room be hushed and still,
let us go where he kneels
and join him as he serves,
and learn his way of love.
He said, this is what I'm asking you to do,
this is why I'm kneeling beside you,
This is what I want my church to be,
this is what I want the world to see -
Who it is you follow.

Graham Kendrick

John 13: 1-9 Jesus washes tired feet [no one is excluded]

It was before the Passover festival, and Jesus knew that his hour had come and that he must leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved his own who were in the world, and he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot to betray him. During supper, Jesus, well aware that the Father had entrusted everything to him, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from the supper table, took off his outer garment and, taking a towel, tied it round him. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel. When he came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, 'You, Lord, washing my feet?' Jesus replied, 'You do not understand now what I am doing, but one day you will.' Peter said, 'I will never let you wash my feet.' 'If I do not wash you,' Jesus replied, 'you have no part with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter, 'not my feet only; wash my hands and head as well!'

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

John 13:21, 27, 30 Jesus was aware of Judas' intentions

Jesus exclaimed in deep distress, 'In very truth I tell you, one of you is going to betray me'.

Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you have to do.'

As soon as Judas had received the bread he went out. It was night.

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

John 13:36-38 Jesus knew Peter's heart too

Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus replied, 'I am going where you cannot follow me now, but one day you will'. Peter said, 'Lord why cannot I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.' Jesus answered, Will you really lay down your life for me? In very truth I tell you, before the cock crows you will have denied me three times.'

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Jesus shares bread and wine

For the tradition which I handed on to you came to me from the Lord himself: that on the night of his arrest the Lord Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God broke it and said: 'This is my body which is for you; do this in memory of me'. in the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said: 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.' For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

Although we can't share communion together as in church, now may be a suitable time if you wish, to eat the biscuit or cake and drink some water as you share fellowship with those who met round the table with Jesus and those who meet in similar ways around the world this night.

This may be a hymn you'd like to use as a prayer:

Hymn 153 Break thou the bread of life

Break thou the bread of life, O Lord to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee Lord;
my spirit longs for thee, O living Word!

Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me,
thy holy word the truth that save the me;
give me to eat and life with thee above;
teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.

O send thy spirit, Lord, now unto me,
that he may touch my eyes and make me see;
show me the truth conceived within thy word,
and in thy book revealed I see the Lord. Mary Artmesia Lathbury &
Alexander Groves

John 13:34-35 Jesus gives the New Commandment to us all

'I give you another commandment: love one another; as I have loved you, you are to love one another. If there is love among you, then everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

John 19:14-18 Jesus is put to death

It was the day of preparation for the Passover, about noon. Pilate said to the Jews, 'Here is your king.' They shouted, 'Away with him! 'Am I to crucify your King?' Said Pilate. 'We have no king but Caesar,' replied the chief priests. Then at last, to satisfy them, he handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

Philippians 2: 5-11 Jesus is Lord

Take to heart among yourselves what you find in Christ Jesus: 'He was in the form of God; yet he laid no claim to equality with God, but made himself nothing, assuming the form of a slave. Bearing the human likeness, sharing the human lot, even to the point of death, death on cross! Therefore God raised him to the heights and bestowed on him the name above all names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow - in heaven, on earth, and in the depths - and every tongue acclaim, JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the father.'

Take a minute or two to reflect or to imagine

[Hymn 287 When I survey the wondrous cross](#)

When I survey by the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;

all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*When the disciples had sung a hymn
They went out to the Mount of Olives
Jesus prayed to his Father:
'If it is possible
take this cup of suffering from me;
yet not my but yours be done.'
Christ was obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.*

Quietly clear away the evidence - the last supper is over.

Tomorrow is Good Friday. If you have a Christian cross it might be an idea to place one in your window just to remind anyone who happens to pass that it is a hallowed day. We cannot do walks of witness this year but we can make this small sign to share our awareness that the day is a very special one.