

**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Maundy Thursday – Email/At Home Missal**

A blessed Maundy Thursday to you, and thank you for joining us for worship, whether by print, email or Zoom. For the season of Lent and into Holy Week, we are working with a combination of stories/articles and scriptures, and our services invite you into a reflective mode.

Last week, you received the third story (*George in the Garage*) with scripture & questions. We this set of material in tension with the Palm Sunday reading from the Gospel of Luke. For Easter Sunday, you will receive the story “Sheldon Seeks Sanctuary”, and reflection scriptures, which we will study on Easter Sunday together, along with singing a new song written and composed by John Oldham & our very own gifted Brad Moggach ☺ Kleenex alert, the beautiful truth-speaking words and the uplifting hopeful melody may bring tears to your eyes on Easter Sunday ☺

For Holy Week, along with Palm Sunday service, we have services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday – all prepared for delivery in three forms: print, email and ZOOM. The links for the ZOOM gatherings are all included below. ALL are WELCOME.

**Maundy Thursday Worship - April 1, 2021 ZOOM opens at 6:45 PM and worship begins at 7pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570639676?pwd=WHZFZVhmSFFWVUxscDBqU1cvdVptdz09>  
Meeting ID: 875 7063 9676 Passcode: 446702

**Good Friday Worship - April 2, 2021 ZOOM opens at 09:45 AM and worship begins at 10 am.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89528195031?pwd=d3BhaENjYVNITHZQd2lBeHovSDAzZz09>  
Meeting ID: 895 2819 5031 Passcode: 660999

**Easter Sunday Service - April 4, 2021 ZOOM opens at 09:45 AM and worship begins at 10 am.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87808117422?pwd=YU82enZxSjJEak5CUlZKWWYvV2hpQT09>  
Meeting ID: 878 0811 7422 Passcode: 034530

**You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of the Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):**

1 587 328 1099 or  
1 647 374 4685 or  
1 647 558 0588 or  
1 778 907 2071 or  
1 204 272 7920 or  
1 438 809 7799

As we proceed through Holy Week, doorway and walking visits, telephone/video call visits and delivery of home communion kits including a dining table liturgy remain available. Please contact the church office if you would like any of these ☺ Keep safe: distance, wash, mask and love each other.

With love, in Christ  
Pastor Janaki.

**Welcome remarks:** Be prepared during this service, to take a break during the main reading, when Jesus does the foot washing, to do your own handwashing. You are invited during the handwashing to think about the things you have to be thankful for, as well as the burdens and prejudices on your own heart that you would like God to help you wash away.

**We gather in silence, in your home and in mine, and sit in silence for a few minutes before we proceed with our worship.**

**Greeting:**

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

your home and in mine.

### **Context for Maundy Thursday**

*'And now I give you a new commandment:  
love one another.*

*As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John 13:34*

*With nightfall and the beginning of this liturgy, our Lenten observance comes to its culmination. We gather with believers around the world remembering the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We do more than retrace the last days of Jesus' life. Rather, throughout these Three Days, through word, sacrament, and ceremony, we participate in the saving power of Jesus' transition from life to death to life. As the Three Days begin, we are invited to glory in the cross of Christ—our salvation, our life, our resurrection.*

*On this night we hear Jesus' new **mandatum**, meaning the new commandment, to love one another. The word 'Maundy' is derived from the Latin word "**mandatum**". On the night before his betrayal, we are called to follow Jesus' example of humble servitude, living out our baptismal vocation with humility and care for one another, and especially for the poor, the unloved, those living on the margins. When we were able to gather together, we would wash feet or hands, and receive anointing for service.*

*This year we mark Jesus' act of servitude with a pause for our own handwashing – an action we have become all too familiar with this pandemic year, which is also a profound act of service to each other in humanity's encounter with COVID-19 and all the COVID variants.*

*We gather, whether on ZOOM or not, at the Lord's table which is also each one of our tables, to remember the sacrifice of Jesus' life. His love was revealed in the emptying of his life for us. We share the holy meal, becoming what we eat and drink: the body of Christ, offering ourselves in love for the life of the world.*

*We are anointed and we are reminded that we are forgiven through Jesus who died for us.*

At the conclusion of the liturgy, in a sanctuary service, the altar and chancel furnishings are removed, preparing the worship space for Good Friday. Through this stark ritual we recall that Jesus was abandoned by his followers, stripped of his dignity, and left to face the cross alone. You are encouraged to turn lights down in your home at the end of this service, and take some time of silence to contemplate the journey of Christ to the cross and death. We depart in silence, ready to continue remembering the Three Days on Good Friday.

**(silence)**

### **Confession & Forgiveness (Pgs. 258 & 259 of ELW)**

While we were still sinners, Jesus died for us.  
Through the incredible power of the Holy Spirit,  
God promises to heal us and forgive us.  
God makes reconciliation possible in all circumstances:  
nothing we have done, thought or said is so bad that reconciliation through Jesus is impossible.  
This is the grace of God in Jesus towards us.  
Confident in this truth,  
let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*We kneel or sit. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,  
**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
 Forgive us, renew us and lead us,  
 So that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
 To the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,  
 loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
 and made us alive together with Christ.  
 By grace we have been saved.  
 In the name of + Jesus Christ,  
 all of our sins are forgiven.  
 Almighty God strengthen us all with power  
 through the Holy Spirit,  
 that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Gathering Hymn: Come to Me All Pilgrims Thirsty ELW 777 (Beach Spring) Bradley Moggach, Organ**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XJVkWcHTyA>

Text: Delores Dufner; Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr Selected Hymns 1985; Contributors: Lutheran Book of Worship  
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**Prayer of the Day:** Holy God, source of all love, Jesus gave us a new commandment on the night of his betrayal: to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment on our hearts. Give us courage and faith over fear, to serve as Jesus served, with our actions and our very selves. Amen.

### **The Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Word of God word of life. Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Take, O, Take Me As I Am ELW 814**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mf3QHqQ-004>

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### **The Holy Gospel according to John the 13th chapter (excerpts)**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. It was supertime. The Devil by now had Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, firmly in his grip, all set for the betrayal.

Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron.

(here we will pause for hand-washing at home)

After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table. Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his

master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

"Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I'm telling you: 'Where I go, you are not able to come.'

"Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."

(The Message Translation)

**The Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message (Imagine Pastor Janaki's voice here 😊) Keeping ourselves clean in Spirit 😊**

There is a lovely lady named Lorie Fioze who is the Manager of Strategic Planning & Strategic Initiatives at the Waterloo Region offices. She signs off her emails with these words:

*Mask. Distance. Wash.*

*Self care. Stay connected. Reach out.*

*We got this Waterloo Region!*

I have taken note of these words many a time.

Mask. Distance. Wash.

Perhaps at no other time before in our lives has washing, hand washing in particular, been such a critical part of loving each other. Early in the pandemic, I put hand lotion pumps beside every sink in my home, as I found all the handwashing was making my hands so dry sometimes I would see little cracks in my skin.

No doubt when Jesus went to wash the disciples feet, he would have seen in their feet those little cracks that happen when shoes are in sandals in a hot, dry and often dusty climate. We wash our own hands, but in the Maundy Thursday gospel reading, we hear of Jesus doing the washing, not (he clarifies to Peter) as an act of cleanliness but rather as an act of holiness, as an act of demonstrating that these people whose feet he are washing are set apart for a sacred duty.

That sacred duty is the same sacred duty we all come to as disciples: it is the duty of following Jesus' example and loving each other ... not just loving each other in a hallmark, hearts and candy kind of way ... but loving each other THE WAY THAT JESUS HAS LOVED US.

How has Jesus loved us?

He poured himself out like a servant for us, not taking his equality and unity with God as a reason to hold himself aloft of human suffering.

He suffered great trials, and went through violent attacks even onto death for us.

He shared food and drink, he shared the ability to heal and so many teachings with us.

He came to show us a way to love, by living that way of love himself.

Today I asked us to pause in the middle of this reading to hand wash. And I invited you to think about washing away the burdens and prejudices to the gospel in your own life as you wash your hands. Imagine if you brought your attention, with every single hand wash of every day, if you brought your attention each time to the act of surrendering your fears, prejudices and burdens to God, washing these away in the same way you wash away COVID germs ... imagine how this might help you in your journey of loving as God has loved us?

You see, Lorie's second line: self-care. Stay connected. Reach out also speaks to this ... a part of our self-care is attending to our own souls, bringing ourselves before God for Spirit to minister to us, for Spirit to lift from us the things that keep us apart ... the things that cause pain and trouble in our lives. That way when we reach out to others,

when we seek connection, we can make those connections in the best possible ways, bringing our best possible selves to those connections.

Love each other requires self-love first ... for it is only when we love ourselves well that the act of loving others as we love ourselves can be a good act.

Jesus' commands us to love each other as he has loved us ... so we are to love each other ... so ... keep safe. Wash. Distance. Mask. ... and do what Jesus has commanded ☺ Amen.

### **Hymn of the Day: Jesus The Very Thought of You ELW 754**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xrE69xCTqE>

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### **Prayers of Intercession**

Confident that God provides for us abundantly, we bring our prayers before God...

Holy God, our Father, you give us your son, Jesus,  
and you equip us and empower us with the Holy Spirit.  
You lead us with instructions, by example, and with inner promptings.  
Strengthen us to be obedient to you, and to be hopeful about our leaders.  
Where leaders fall or do wrong, help them to be raised up.

### ***God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.***

Generous & Abundant God, you bless us with many gifts.  
Here in Cambridge, in Waterloo Region:  
you have given us as a congregation the gift of many opportunities:  
opportunities for partnerships, opportunities for our facilities.  
May we invest our gifts in the work of your Kingdom,  
as we follow you through these three days.  
Help us to be responsible servants, investing wisely the gifts you give us.  
Help us to return to you, in Word, sacrament and actions of love:  
In this Holy Week, draw us closer to you in the Word.

### ***God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.***

Great and Holy Spirit, you walk alongside us always,  
Nudging us towards deepening relationship with God.  
Be with the families and loved ones of those who have died unexpectedly.  
As we encounter news of pandemic deaths, violence and disasters in our world,  
keep us open to your nudging,  
help us to hear you,  
Make us your Holy vessel and a channel for your love.

### ***God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.***

God who sees all and knows all, we Pray:  
For people across Canada who are affected by: family violence and incarceration,  
of whom Indigenous people are affected in disproportionate numbers.  
We pray for our children's and youth ministry.  
We pray for those who are questioning meaning and purpose.

We ask God to be with those who suffer,  
especially those we name aloud  
or in the silence of our hearts  
(leave time for the prayers to come forward).  
For these we have named, and the ones we hold in our hearts, we pray.

**God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.**

God of Love, you call us to serve our neighbors.

Nourish us with word and sacrament and bless those who are unable to worship today.

Receive our prayers into your tender-loving care, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

**Laying on of Hands & Anointing – Pandemic Version ☺**

The last supper was an intimate time. Feet were washed. Bread was broken. Final conversations would have been happening – at least Jesus knew they would be his final conversations before crucifixion. Today, we commune but in so many places, apart, not together ... and we rely on the power of Spirit to work miraculously through print, email and ZOOM to join us together in one body through the power of normal things we share, in households safely isolated from each other. It is a contradiction of terms that only God can be trusted to hold us together in this context.

We are accustomed to acknowledging the forgiveness we receive from God on Maundy Thursday. The forgiveness we receive from God is like the air we breathe – it surrounds us completely in love and grace. It does not depend on our being in the same physical space. We also serve as instruments for the conveyance of God's forgiveness. So if you live in a home with more than one person, I encourage you to lay hands on each other and receive God's complete absolution from sins.

**"In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven. Amen."**

**Meal:**

**Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsiaRdyFr50>**

I invite you to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

The Lord be with you. Response: *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. Response: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Response: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

**Prayer after Communion (Barb to pray)**

Compassionate God:

you feed us with your bread of love,

you quench our thirst with your wine of forgiveness.

Sustain us during this time of Lent:

give us your hunger for justice,

make us generous with a love like yours.

Make us one with Jesus.

**Amen**

This brings us to the end of our Maundy Thursday service. There is no benediction or sending hymn. I encourage you to dim the lights in your home and spend a little time in the silence to meditate on the meaning of these few days in our faith story, and the meaning of Jesus' servitude for you.

**For email worship, this hymn may be played before we depart.**

**Abide, Bradley Moggach synthesizer and bells, Improvisation, Bradley Moggach**

**Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGHnsAHeKHs&t=5s>**

