

Maundy Thursday Communion Order of Service

1st April 2021

7.00 pm



Worship led by Rev Dr's Andre & Nanda Groenewald

Music from Catriona Lachlan & Harry Thomson

Balerno Church Virtual choir

Soloist Carolyn Hamilton

Bible reader: Peter MacLean

Post Communion prayer: Evelyn Paterson



“After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him” John 13:5.

Welcome and Announcements.

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship: (Psalm 119:105)

God's word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

We greet you in the Name of God the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.

MP 987 Here is love as vast as the ocean.

Here is love vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of life, our ransom shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten, throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion, fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy, flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice, kissed a guilty world in love.

William Rees

Reflecting on God's Word

Bible Reading: John 13: 1-12 read by Peter MacLean.

Jesus washes his disciples' feet

¹³ 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 round 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 round 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 realise 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. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them.

Reflection

MP 64 Break thou the bread of life sung by Balerno Church Virtual choir

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me,

As Thou didst break the bread beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit longs for Thee, Thou living Word!

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord to me
Thy holy word the truth that saveth me;
Give e to eat and live 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 concealed within Thy word,
And in Thy book revealed I see Thee, Lord.

Bless Thou the bread of life to me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the loaves by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,
And I shall find my peace, my all-in-all!

Communion

Opening responses

Come, Lord Jesus,
You too were tired when day was done;
You met your friends at evening time.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus,
You too enjoyed when nights drew on;
You told your tales at close of day.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus,
You kindled faith when lamps were low;
You opened scriptures,
Broke the bread,
And shed your light
As darkness fell.
Come, Lord Jesus,
Meet us here.

Opening prayer

O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation
and for this day now closing,
we give you thanks.

For your love for us, wild and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation:
to the sap that flows,

the blood that pulses,
the heart that sings.
We give you thanks.

For you love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain,
wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion.
We give you thanks.

For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us,
and shown us how to serve.
We give you thanks.

O God we come to celebrate
that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us,
and at the heart of all life.

Remind us tonight of the gift of Your love
made known to us in the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine
as round Christ's table we gather,
that we may be drawn deeper into your presence.
Amen.

Invitation to communion

This is the table,
Not of the Church but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him
And who want to love him more.
So come,
you who have much faith, and you who have little;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a time,
you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.

Come,
for it is Jesus who invites you:
it is his will that those who want him
should meet him here.

The story

Now let us hear the story of how this sacrament began.
On the night when Jesus was betrayed,
He sat at supper with his disciples.
While they were eating he took a piece of bread,
said a blessing,
broke it and gave it to them with the words:

"This is my body. It is broken for you.
Do this to remember me."

Later he took a cup of wine, saying,
"This cup represents the new covenant,
sealed with my blood.
Drink from it all of you, to remember me."

Prayer of thanksgiving

Expressions of our gratitude,
Hearts lifted high, voices raised in praise,
These you deserve, dear Lord.

For when we were nothing, you made us something.
When we had no name and no faith and no future,
You called us your children.
When we lost our way or turned away, you did not abandon us.
When we came back to you,
your arms opened wide in welcome.

And look,
You prepare a table for us
Offering not just bread and wine,
But your very self
So that we may be filled, forgiven,
Healed, blessed, and made new again.

So as we gather together round this table
Aware of the company of all the saints before us and beside us,
send down your Holy Spirit, we pray, on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us your body,
healing, forgiving, and making us whole,
and that we may become, for you, your body,
loving and caring in the world
until your kingdom comes.
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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The breaking and pouring

Look, the body of Christ is broken for the life of the world.
Let us do this and remember him.
Drink now from the cup and remember His sacrifice for you...

Sharing the Peace

The peace of our Lord will be with you...!

SOLO by Carolyn Hamilton: "Panis angelicus"

Panis angelicus/Heavenly bread
Fit panis hominum;/That becomes the bread of all mankind;
dat panis coelicus/ Bread from the angelic host
Figuris terminum/That is the end of all imaginings.
O res mirabilis!/Oh, miraculous thing!
manducat Dominium/This body of God will nourish

Pauper, pauper,/Even the poorest,
Servus et humilis,/The most humble of servants.
Pauper, pauper/Even the poorest,
Servus et humilis./The most humble of servants.

Post Communion prayer by Evelyn Paterson

CH4 374 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.
This is our God, the Servant King,...

Come see his hands and his feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.
This is our God, the Servant King,...

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.
This is our God, the Servant King,...

Blessing

O Trinity of Love,

You have been with us at the world's beginning,

Be with us till the world's end.

You have been with us at our life's shaping,

Be with us at our life's end. You have been with us at the sun's rising,

Be with us till the day's end.

The blessing of God Almighty Father Son and Holy Spirit will be with you now and forever more.

Amen

A meditation for Maundy Thursday based on John 13.1-12

My time has come, and you still don't understand.

How can I make it clear to you?

Can I wash away your preconceptions, misconceptions and mistakes

and open your eyes to what I shall be doing

when I wash the feet of the world

and cleanse all sin away?

I need to overturn all complacency,

to flush away the stains of pride, the grasp of power, the lure of position

and focus your attention on the ultimate significance of loving service.

Unforgettable, discomfiting,

embarrassing, unsettling.

'I should be doing that, not you!'

'Only I can do it'

– although you were too proud to wash each other's feet.

Very soon on Calvary, in utter devotion and humility,

the Holy One will wash the feet of the whole world.

