

A Time Called ... MAUNDY Thursday



We speak of the church year, but we break it into smaller bits like Lent. A still smaller bit of Lent is Maundy Thursday. At each step, our focus sharpens as we move from a wide-angle lens to a close-up shot. Through today's lens we see the events of Maundy Thursday.

Historical Roots of Maundy Thursday

The name comes from the Latin *mandatum novum* ("new commandment" John 13:34) – from the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. The foot-washing service dates back to the 7th century, when bishops and abbots used it to symbolize their servanthood. Now, a foot-washing service is for everyone.

A celebration of the Lord's Supper in commemoration of its institution began in the 4th century. In our tradition, however, the celebration of the Lord's Supper always goes beyond historical concerns to its full meaning as a sacrament. Possibly the oldest act (which is no longer practiced) was a public reconciliation for penitents, prior to readmission to communion at Easter.

Finding Meaning in the Tradition

These riches are a lot to put into one service. Perhaps one thing will stand out for us. In the foot-washing service, we might see that it is not the act which gives meaning, but who is doing it that carries the message of radical servanthood. In the Lord's Supper, we may focus on God's gifts, strengthening us to face tomorrow in faith. We remember the commandment to love one another and ask for a new beginning in love. We remove the colour and decoration of our sanctuary, symbolizing the colour and creativity that left the world when Jesus died – leaving that story to stand unadorned.

Your service of worship may end with the ancient tradition of stripping the chancel and sanctuary of decoration and colour. We wait for Good Friday.

Questions for Personal Meditation

- In what ways am I learning to love?
- Is it harder for me to serve another, or let another serve me? Where is Jesus asking for growth?
- If things of colour and decoration were removed from the sanctuary, how did that affect me?

Summerside Presbyterian Church & Trinity United Church



~ Maundy Thursday ~

March 28th, 2024

A Joint Service of Worship
Trinity United & Summerside Presbyterian Churches

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28, 2024

Words of Welcome & Call to Worship: See *Lenten Insert*

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:1-16

Hymn: #224 **An upper room did our Lord prepare** (vs. 1-2)

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Let us pray. Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.**

**Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen.**

Assurance of God's Love

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-5, 12-15, 21-35

& Sung Response: #225 **A new commandment**

Moments of Reflection

& Invitation to the Table



*"If love is true, there must always be a certain extravagance in it.
It does not nicely calculate the less or more.
It is not concerned to see how little it can decently give.
If it gave all it had, the gift would still be too little.
There is a recklessness in love which refuses to count the cost."*

~ William Barclay

The Sacrament of Communion

Hymn: #546 **Here is bread: here is wine**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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 forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution (Mark 14:22-25)

Ministry of Music: "Remember, Remember Me" (J. Schrader)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Prayer after Communion

Hymn: #224 **An upper room did our Lord prepare** (vs. 3-4)

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:26-50

Hymn: #231 **When I survey the wondrous cross**

Benediction



*Please join us tomorrow at Trinity United Church for our
joint Good Friday service (10:30 am).*