



Maundy Thursday with Christ Our Hope

This year as our Holy Week team thought and prayed through how we might keep these holiest of days well in this unprecedented time, we were led to embrace our dispersed context, rather than fight it. Since we cannot come together for our usual service to wash one another's feet and celebrate the institution of the Sacrament, we can still honor the spirit of Christ's command and love one another well.

In this packet you'll find several different modes of curated suggestions for our individual-yet-corporate observation of this important day of Holy Week. We invite you to set aside a time at some point during this holy day to observe one or more of them as you feel led. As we each engage one of these practices, we will worship **together**, finding a new way to honor Christ's mandate to love as He loved us.

:: EMBODYING LOVE WITH TANGIBLE EXPRESSIONS

Feel free to use one of these suggestions (or one of your own!) of tactile ways to show love to one another. Remember to observe healthy social distancing if you choose a drop-off option.

- + Cook a little extra at dinner and package it up and deliver it to a single person who is isolated
- + Deliver a bouquet of flowers to someone's doorstep
- + Bake cookies to give away
- + Leave non-perishable items on someone's porch anonymously
- + Write a note (or color a picture!) to send to someone who might be lonely
- + Call someone ready to do some intentional listening
- + Write thank you notes to the fire department, hospital, or your local grocery store workers.
- + Have a pizza or cupcakes delivered to Walmart or other essential business for their break room.
- + Offer to read a story over video chat to a family of stir-crazy kids
- + Call someone and offer to run errands for them
- + Make Easter baskets to deliver to neighbors of all ages on Sunday morning!
- + Write a letter reaching out in peace to someone you are estranged from
- ++ Do some prayer journaling to work through your own hurts and losses to move towards forgiveness [more resources for this under the "Prayer Journaling" section]

ABOUT THE COVER ART – AN INVITATION THROUGH IMAGERY

The loaf and chalice symbolize the bread and wine of holy communion while the basin, ewer, and towel symbolize the washing of feet. The Greek word *agapate* is Jesus' mandate to the disciples to love one another. Thirteen poppies symbolize remembrance and represent the thirteen figures present at the Last Supper. We are spurred to contemplate our own practices of love and service to others, as well as our unity as members of one body in Christ.

(Artwork by Sacred Ordinary Days)

:: FOR A TIME OF HOME WORSHIP

Foot Washing:

If you are in a household of two or more, you may want to observe this important part of our corporate service while at home. The following are the words from the Book of Common Prayer that introduce the action in the service:

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by worldly power and authority, but by such lowly service.

Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ to come forward, that we may recall whose servants we are by following the example of our Master. Come now remembering his admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done by you to others. Engrave on your hearts and mirror in your actions Jesus' words: "A servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

You may also want to read these verses aloud:

The Lord Jesus, rising from supper, laid aside his outer garments, took a towel, and washed his disciples' feet. Then he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

John 13:12b, 14

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

John 13:34

And/or say this together as a call and response:

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

Things to Watch or Listen to Online:

The Servant King is an animated video from the creators of the Jesus Storybook Bible, ideal for families but appropriate for anyone, regardless of age.

[Did You Think?](#) – a song by Minnesota-based musician Dave Horn, inspired by Jesus' hands-on approach to healing, even with the ritually unclean - the leper, the corpse - those He was not supposed to touch.

[By Our Love](#) – a modern rendition by For King and Country of the well-known contemporary worship song

:: PRAYER JOURNALING

Feel free to use these journaling prompts to help you get started. You may wish to use the prayer included below as either a preparation or closing of your time prayer journaling.

- What am I grieving? What losses are still hurts inside of me that I need to identify so that Jesus can come in and heal? What are hurts or slights from others that I am still hanging onto? Don't be afraid to be specific - make lists of people's names or specific incidents from your past.
- Once you have written your lists of losses, offer them up to the Lord. Ask him to show you his blood of forgiveness pouring over those people and situations. Ask him to give you the gift of forgiveness. This is hard when you may feel it is one sided, but we are still asked to forgive.
- You may need to write a letter (or many letters), offering forgiveness and extending Peace. Even if you never send the letter, this can be a good way to find closure after acknowledging your losses, finding forgiveness and then walking forward into Resurrection Hope.
- This [pledge for church unity](#) offers deep guidance on Scriptural models of Biblical unity and reconciliation. You may find it a useful companion to your prayer journaling, or just to read and pray through intentionally.

*Just as Jesus
bore the scars of his death,
May the wounds of my past
Have a redeemed place
In my future.*

-Justin McRoberts, "May It Be So"

:: A Benediction for Church Unity

May we – the Church, together - observe these last days of Holy Week following in
the path of Christ –

Thursday - humbly serving

Friday - forgiving others

Saturday - waiting in the dark

Finally, **Easter Sunday** - rejoicing together in hope