

Maundy Thursday

In this time of pandemic, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

What follows is a service to be used during dinner on Maundy Thursday. There are suggestions to help you adapt it to your situation. Consider setting out symbols or other items that will make your space a space for prayer and worship – even at a family dinner. If you would like to find other households to join with in a zoom meeting during this meal service, contact Pastor Cindy or Emily.

You will need:

- A candle (wax or LED)
- A bowl of water and a towel
- A bible, bible app on a phone or children's bible
- Dinner (!)

Set up wherever you usually eat dinner. Place the candle and bowl where everyone can see them. The other items should be easily accessible. There is about 10 minutes before the food is served so plan ahead to keep things warm. You can share the leading of the service or have one leader.

A Meal Worship for Maundy Thursday

Light the candle.

Invocation:

We gather/I come in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

Holy God, source of all love, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading: John 13:1-17

Washing of Hands

You may wash your own hands, using the water in the bowl, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Or, if there are several of you worshipping together, you may wash each other's hands, thinking of the love of Jesus poured out on each of us in this difficult time.

OR

Blessing of Hands

Each person may look carefully at their hands considering all that their hands do.

O God, guide my/our hands to touch the world gently, offer my/our gifts gladly, and bring healing and hope in all that I/we do. Bless these hands to your service. Amen.

Dinner

Continue with dinner, including any table prayer you usually say.

During dinner talk about these 3 questions

- What is the job you LEAST like to do around the house?
- If someone you respect offered to do that job for you, how would you feel?
- How might you help someone feel honored and loved?
- Make a list of people who need to feel loved right now. Save the list for the prayers at the end of dinner worship.

Closing Prayers

We pray for this world, the church, and all that you have given into our care:

Holy God, we thank you for this good earth and all the signs of spring. We thank you for the continued work to end the pandemic and open our communities. We thank you for your Spirit, working among us, even when we can't be together. *(add other prayers of thanksgiving now)*

God of grace, we pray for healing for those who suffer from sickness, pain or grief. We ask for your loving presence for everyone who is isolated by pandemic, prejudice or other illness. Give them healing and strength to move forward, and give us a heart to walk with them. *(add other prayers of need now)*

Jesus our savior, we hear your command to love one another. Give us insight and courage to walk in your way of love. Be with us as we walk with you through this holy week, and into the resurrection.

We offer all our prayers in the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Maundy Thursday for Households with Children

In this time of pandemic, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

What follows is a service to be used during dinner on Maundy Thursday. There are suggestions to help you adapt it to your situation. Consider setting out symbols or other items that will make your space a space for prayer and worship – even at a family dinner! If you would like to find other households to join with in a zoom meeting during this meal service, contact Pastor Cindy or Emily.

You will need:

- A candle (wax or LED)
- A bowl of water and a towel (soap, if desired)
- A way to watch a video or the enclosed bible story
- Dinner (!)

Set up wherever you usually eat dinner. Place the candle and bowl where everyone can see them. The other items should be easily accessible. There is about 10 minutes before the food is served so plan ahead to keep things warm. You can share the leading of the service or have one leader.

A Meal Worship for Maundy Thursday

Light the candle.

Invocation:

We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

Holy God, Jesus asked us to love one another as he loves. Help us to serve and care for others as Jesus did. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reading: John 13:1-17

You can use one of the enclosed stories from children' bibles, or watch the story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv5ajWNrnt4> (or search YouTube for "Saddleback Kids Jesus washes his disciples feet" for this video)

Washing of Hands

Using the bowl of water, you may wash each other's hands, remembering how Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

OR

Blessing of Hands

Each person may look carefully at their hands considering all that their hands do.

O God, help our hands to touch things gently, create things with love, and to help others as Jesus did. Bless our hands to your service. Amen.

Dinner

Continue with dinner, including any table prayer you usually say.

During dinner talk about these 3 questions

- What is the job you LEAST like to do around the house?
- If someone important offered to do that job for you, how would you feel?
- How might you help someone feel respected and loved?
- Make a list of people who need to feel loved right now. Save the list for the prayers at the end of dinner worship.

Closing Prayers

We pray for this world, the church, and all that you have given into our care:

Holy God, we thank you for this good earth and all the signs of spring. We thank you that the pandemic is getting better. We thank you that you are with us even when we can't be with all our friends. *(add other prayers of thanksgiving now)*

God of grace, we pray for healing for those who are sick or sad. We ask you to be with those who are alone or who are bullied. Give them your love and help us to care for them. *(add other prayers of need now)*

Jesus our savior, you told us to love one another. Help us do loving things this week. Be with us as we get ready for Good Friday and Easter.

We offer all our prayers in the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.