

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021

**On behalf of our family of faith at Community United Church of Christ, Medford, WI,  
welcome to this time of worship!**

During this time of worship, we will be sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion.  
These elements will be needed: a piece of bread or some crackers; wine, juice or water.

All are welcome to share the sacrament in your homes.

Also, you will need a bowl of water, a towel handy a scissors and a piece of paper.

**“No matter who you are or where you are on your life’s journey, you are welcome here!”**

### **Call to Worship**

This is a night of remembrance and celebration. It is also a time of fear and betrayal. Each time we are at the table with Christ, we receive the commandment: to love one another as he loves us.

By Jesus’ example, we become servants to each other and will follow where he leads us.

### **Invocation:**

Let us pray: Holy God, our intentions are good. We want to share in the heritage of our faith, to remember Jesus’ last meal with his friends. We want to be disciples, too, but when we count the cost, we tremble.

We gather here as your servant people, knowing that we are precious in your sight, but we are afraid to take the risk of trusting you completely. Lead us this night into deeper commitment. Amen.

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Turn to greet those around you and say: “Peace be with you.”**

The title of this evening’s meditation is: “Remember This...” it is divided into three parts.

**First**, I will ask you this: What do you tell each other before you leave the house? What does your mom or dad say to you when you leave for school? Important things: don’t forget your lunch...drive safe...have fun...be good...remember to...get some milk on the way home...I love you. If you were going on a long trip...what would you say? See you when I get back.

We are here tonight to recalling that on the last night of his life, Jesus told us three things to be sure to remember. I want you to get a better look at this picture...an artist drew a picture of what it was like when Jesus and his friends had a special supper together. Look at the picture...count the people. (Jesus: 12 apostles) We call it the **last supper**.



Back in those days and even now, at this time of the year, Jewish people get together for a special, holy supper called the “Seder” meal...that is what Jesus and his friends are doing in this picture. They ate certain foods to remind them of when they were slaves in Egypt:

- **bitter herbs**, to remind them of how bad it was.
- **sweet, paste of fruits and nuts, to remind them** of the mortar they used to make the buildings in Egypt.
- **hard-boiled egg and roasted lamb** symbolizing, festival sacrifice.
- **matza bread**, not fluffy and not raised, because they had to leave in a hurry...

and 4 **cups of wine** to represent God’s 4 promises, Exodus 6:6-7,

"I will bring you out," "I will save you," "I will redeem you," and "I will take you out as a nation."

After they ate all of this...Jesus did something different. He took the bread and broke it and shared it with his friends. And then, he took the wine and did the same.

Tonight, we are not having herbs and paste and lamb but, we are going to do what Jesus told us to do: to eat this holy meal. He said: “Do this all of you and remember me.”

Get the table ready: some bread or crackers, wine or juice; light a candle. Everything is ready...

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

The darkness deepens, and Jesus grows troubled. Can we watch with Him?

Can we be the friends at His table who share his bread and his cup?

Can we be the companions who journey with Him to the end?

Come, let us give thanks for such great love!

Jesus, we are stunned at your commitment to us. You did not run from the darkness, you did not hide from your accusers, You did not fade into safe obscurity. You stepped with determination into the darkness, and were willing to give yourself to whip and fist, to wood and nails. We praise you, for what you endured to reconcile us with God. We give you thanks for your forgiveness. Let us never forget what this journey means as we join in the prayer that you taught us:

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Let's sing a Hymn:** "We Remember You" #690 Worship and Rejoice

1. We remember You, we remember You; by Your sacrifice of love all glory now is due  
At this table here mercy hovers near. Thanks is offered up; in this bread and cup we remember You.
2. Precious, risen Lamb, Jesus who was slain. now enthroned in glory, forever you will reign.  
Gladly we embrace both these signs of grace.  
Thanks is offered up; in this bread and cup we remember You.

Song #2186931, by Walt Harrah ©2000 Hope Publishing Company  
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We now do, what Jesus invited us to do, when he was at the table sharing his last meal with his friends.

He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
"When you eat the bread, remember Me. This is my body given for you."

Then he took the wine, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying:  
"When you drink this cup, remember me. This is the cup of the new covenant."

Creating and covenanting God, bless these simple symbols of the earth: this bread and this juice.  
Come, Holy Spirit, and teach us through the sharing of this meal how to heal the divisions that separate us from one another. It is not the bread and cup that become the Body of Christ through this meal, it is we who do. I invite you to eat the bread and drink from the cup, remembering that Jesus died to bring us life. We will keep sharing this meal until he comes again. Amen. (Eat the bread and drink from the cup.)

**Thanksgiving:** Let us give thanks:

Holy God, in gratitude for this holy meal, we give ourselves to you. Let us be changed and renewed because we have shared these gifts at your table. Ask much of us, enable much by us, encourage many through us, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Now, Mike will read the scripture that tells what happened next:**

### **Mike G-P: Gospel of John 13:1-17 The Message**

Jesus was done eating supper and got up from the supper table ...and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the feet of the disciples and dried them with a towel.

When he got to his friend Peter, Peter said, "What? You're going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You don't understand what I'm doing, but it will be clear enough to you later."

<sup>8</sup> Peter said again, "You're not going to wash my feet—ever!"

Jesus said, "Yes, I am." Peter said, "Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!"

Jesus said, "If you've had a bath this morning, you only need your feet washed now. Because I have washed your feet, this is what you need to do: you must now wash each other's feet."

People did it every day. The roads were dusty and muddy. Everyone wore sandals. It was one of the tasks of the servants in those days to help people wash their feet when they came into the house.

Jesus served his friends and washed their feet! by doing this, He showed them that they should also serve one another. Are probably thinking, “You are not going to make us wash each other’s feet.” No, I am not, unless you want to experience what that feels like! Otherwise, we are going to wash our hands, and as we do, we are getting ready to love and serve one another as Christ loves and serves us. Gracious God, lay your mighty hands upon us as we wash our hands and help one another in your name. Amen.

As you wash your hands now and every day, imagine that Jesus is washing them; wash one another’s hands...remember this, too.

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**The third part of this Maundy Thursday service is this:**

**Jerry G-P: John 13: 31-35 The Message** A New Command

When he had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified—glory all around!

“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.”

**Jesus gave us this *mandate*, this new Commandment...on that Thursday night before he died.**

This is why today is called “Maundy Thursday.”

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

Repeat it after me: Just as I have loved you; You also should love one another.

Let’s say it again: Just as I have loved you; You also should love one another.

**Meditation:** “*Remember This!*” Pastor Mary Jo

How did Jesus decide what he was going to tell his friends on this holy night? He could have said nothing at all and could have just spent some quiet time together. Maybe they did...maybe they talked about times they spent together...maybe they laughed. Do you think that they talked about tomorrow?

Then, he didn’t give them something to do individually and he didn’t give them an option. Nor does he give us one.

This night we have been challenged by Jesus himself. Not IF we have time and IF we feel like it someday... ..but, to go and do this: To share the Holy Meal that we call Communion.

To serve one another, and not just washing hands and feet. To always love one another.”

Always... **remembering... this!**

**Evening Prayer**

Let’s pray...as we do, close your eyes, take a deep breath...think of the meal: the bread....breathe out. Think of the cup. Breathe in...think of clean hands and clean feet...breathe out. Think about loving one another and choose something you will do. Breathe in. Gracious God, hear our prayers of thanks. Breathe out...for the blessings of this day, for the blessings of this night of remembering...

Thank you, holy one, for all that we have received in the name of Jesus. Amen.



## Benediction

As we go back into our world, we go with love in our hearts.

Give voice to the silent.

Hear one another.

Care for one another.

**It's all that easy.**

Give strength to the weak.

See one another.

And love one another.

And it's all that hard! (d365 4/16/19)

**Parting Song: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" #273 Worship and Rejoice Hymnal**

**Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,**

**show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them. **Refrain**
2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are near us and far away. **Refrain**
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love,  
all these are neighbors to us and you. **Refrain**
4. Loving puts us on our knees, silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain**

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**Go now in peace and remember these things.**

**You will find this *recorded service* at [uccmedford.org](http://uccmedford.org)**

**Click on "media."**



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