

Maundy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm

At the heart of the Maundy Thursday service lies Jesus' new commandment (the word 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word *mandatum* – 'commandment') given to his friends, during the last meal he shared with them: **'love one another as I have loved you'**. Tonight through the washing of feet we recall and ponder the example Jesus gave of loving service. Also on this night we remember how Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper, breaking the bread of his body and sharing the wine of his blood. Jesus commanded his disciples to do this in memory of him and tonight we do this with thanksgiving and joy.

The service ends with a sudden change of mood: after the joyful celebration of loving service and self-offering comes the reminder of betrayal, and a death to come, as the sanctuary is stripped bare of its furnishings. We leave the church in silence.

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### The Gathering

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#### Hymn

**Great God, your love has called us here  
as we, by love, for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured,  
disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind  
your call to hear, your love to find.**

**We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,**

**by powers and systems close  
confined  
yet seeking hope for humankind.**

**Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own  
not through some merit, right or claim  
but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.**

**Then take the towel, and break  
the bread,  
and humble us, and call us  
friends.**

**Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love  
intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all  
things.**

**Great God, in Christ you set us  
free  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things  
new.**

*Words: © 1977 Brian Wren  
Tune: Surrey - Henry Carey*

## **The Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God, and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with  
you  
**and also with you.**

*The president introduces the liturgy.*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*The deacon introduces the prayers of  
penitence. All sit or kneel.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:  
'If you love me, keep my  
commandments.'  
'Unless I wash you, you have no  
part in me.'  
Let us confess to almighty God our  
sins against his love,  
and ask him to cleanse us.

Have mercy on us, O God,  
in your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of your  
compassion  
blot out our offences.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from our sin and we shall  
be clean;  
wash us and we shall be whiter than  
snow.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive you  
by the death of his Son

and strengthen you  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all your days.  
**Amen.**

## **Gloria in excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you  
thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the  
world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand  
of the  
Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen**

## **The Collect of Maundy Thursday**

Let us pray that we may love one  
another as Christ has loved us.

*All pray silently, then the president gathers up  
our prayers in the collect.*

God our Father,  
you have invited us to share in the  
supper

which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**



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## The Liturgy of the Word

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### The First Reading

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  
*Bible/O.T.p.60*

### The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
*Bible/N.T. p.170*

*After each reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

**An upper room did our Lord  
prepare  
for those he loved until the end:  
and his disciples still gather  
there,  
to celebrate their risen friend.**

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:  
to share his bread, his loving cup.  
Whatever burdens may bow us  
down,  
he by his cross shall lift us up.**

**And after supper he washed their  
feet  
for service, too, is sacrament.  
In him our joy shall be made  
complete -  
sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

**No end there is! We depart in  
peace,  
he loves beyond our uttermost:  
in ev'ry room in our Father's  
house  
he will be there, as Lord and host.**

### The Gospel Reading

*Remain standing.*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of  
eternal glory.  
**Praise to you, O Christ, King of  
eternal glory.**

I give you a new commandment,  
says the Lord: Love one another as I  
have loved you.  
**Praise to you, O Christ, King of  
eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel is John 13:1-17, 31b-35.*

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All sit.*

## The Address

*A short silence is kept after the address.*

## The Washing of Feet

*Representatives of the congregation have been invited to take part in this re-enactment of Our Lord's act of service.*

*Please sit and listen to the organist play during the foot-washing.*

*A prayer concludes the foot-washing.*

## Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father through Christ the saviour of the world.

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,

your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples'

feet. We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

Lord, hear us

**and humble us.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of your Church.

Lord, hear us

**and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through their message. We pray for the mission of your Church.

Lord, hear us

**and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded them to love,

but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and unloved.

Lord, hear us

**and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded them that if the world hated them, it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord, hear us

**and give us your peace.**

On this night, he accepted the cup of death and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom. We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear us

**and welcome all your children into paradise.**

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## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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*All stand.*

## The Peace

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name.’ says the Lord, ‘there am I in the midst of them.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*As the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it, we sing:*

## Hymn

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow trav'lers on the road;**

**we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with  
you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey  
through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.**

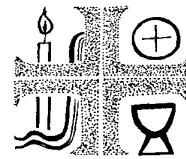
**Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.**

*The president says:*

At the Eucharist we are with our  
crucified and risen Lord. We know  
that it was not only our ancestors,  
but we who were redeemed and  
brought forth from bondage to  
freedom, from mourning to feasting.  
We know that as He was with them  
in the upper room so the Lord is  
here with us now.  
**Until the kingdom of God comes,  
let us celebrate this feast.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the  
universe,  
you bring forth bread from the earth.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the  
universe,  
you create the fruit of the vine.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**



## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our  
God.  
**It is right to give thanks and  
praise.**

Father, you made the world and love  
your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to  
be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free  
from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels praising you,  
and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving  
Father;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine  
outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of  
your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had  
supper with his friends  
and taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them  
and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is  
given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the  
cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to  
them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new  
covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in  
remembrance of me.  
So, Father, we remember all that  
Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his  
sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life  
and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and  
resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Christ is the bread of life:

when we eat this bread and drink  
this cup  
**we proclaim your death, Lord  
Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in  
all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and  
in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O  
loving Father,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

## **Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God:  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins:  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world:  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes  
away the sin of the world. Blessed  
are those who are called to his  
supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive  
you, but only say the word, and I  
shall be healed.**

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion at  
this service. If you do not wish to receive  
Communion, please come for a blessing.*

During communion, the choir sing  
"Tantum Ergo" by Maurice Duruflé

## **Communion Hymn**

***A new commandment  
I give unto you:  
that you love one another  
as I have loved you,  
that you love one another  
as I have loved you.***

**By this shall all know  
that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another.  
By this shall all know**

**that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another.  
*A new commandment...***

**You are my friends if you  
do what I command you.  
Without my help you can do  
nothing.**

**You are my friends if you  
do what I command you.  
Without my help you can do  
nothing.**

***A new commandment...***

**I am the true vine,  
my father is the gard'ner  
Abide in me: I will be with you.**

**I am the true vine,  
my Father is the gard'ner.  
Abide in me: I will be with you.**

***A new commandment...***

**True love is patient,  
not arrogant or boastful;  
love bears all things, love is  
eternal.**

**true love is patient,  
not arrogant or boastful;  
love bears all things, love is  
eternal.**

***A new commandment...***

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The president says the post communion  
prayer.*

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## **The Conclusion**

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*The congregation remains sitting or kneeling  
to sing the following hymn, during which the  
altar party goes to the baptistry.*

## Hymn

**Praise to the Holiest in the Height  
And in the depth be praise,  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came.**

**O Wisest love! that flesh and  
blood,  
Which did in Adam fail,  
Should strive afresh against their  
foe,  
Should strive and should prevail;**

**And that a higher gift than grace  
Should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
And essence all-divine.**

**O generous love! that he who  
smote  
In Man for man the foe,  
The double agony in Man  
For man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,  
And on the cross on high,  
Should teach his brethren, and  
inspire  
To suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the Height,  
And in the depth be praise,  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.**

## The Stripping of the Sanctuary

*There is no dismissal. After the hymn, while the choir sings Psalm 22 (My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?) the sanctuary is stripped bare and the church is darkened - a sign of the coming desertion and the desolation of Good Friday.*

*Please depart in silence when you leave the church.*

“Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am deeply grieved, even to death;  
remain here, and stay awake with me.’”

*Matthew 26.38*



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