



The heart in the heart of Huntsville



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Wandering Heart:
"Streams of mercy"

JOHN 13:1-20

*Jesus washes
Peter's feet.*

Think of a way to take
care of a person or pet
you love. What can you
do for them?

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Welcome to Trinity

Maundy (Holy) Thursday

March 28th — 7 pm

"Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands."

*"At the heart of Maundy Thursday is Jesus' commandment to
love one another and to be good to one another."*

Prelude: *Quiet reflective music*

Welcome

Moment of Meditation

Call to Worship

One: We gather tonight to remember Jesus, the Light of the
World, that refused to be extinguished.

All: We rejoice in his unfailing presence with us.

One: Spirit of Life, convince us that you are deeply
embedded in all reality- in sorrow, in joy, in celebration and
despair.

All: Open our broken hearts to your presence.

One: May our worship tonight transform us into life-giving
reflections of Jesus.

**All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness
can never extinguish it.**

Opening Hymn: *"In the Quiet Curve of Evening"* (VU 278)

Opening Prayer

Spirit of Life, we know the darkest day of our church year is only hours away. But, tonight, in the last moments of Jesus' life he shares once more your dream for our world, a world of peace and love here on earth. Oh, how our hearts yearn for this world and this global peace. Remind us again that Jesus has no love but our love to share with those whose hearts are broken. May we, like Jesus strive to be a beacon of light and hope in our world filled with hurting people. May we hear his command anew to love one another as I have loved you. Amen.

Musical Duet: *Doug and Sue Hicks*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Reader: Shirley Boon

First New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

(This is Paul's narration of Jesus' last supper with his friends before his death.)

Second New Testament Reading: John 13 1-9 and 14-15

(After Jesus and his friends finished their supper Jesus performs an unusual and unexpected act of service, he washes his disciples' feet. When he is finished, he urges them to go out into the world and do the same.)

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to our hearts.

All: Amen

Brief Meditation: *Rev. Diane*

Musical Reflection

THE LAST SUPPER IS SERVED

One: This sacred and sacramental meal is a meal of remembrance. On Holy Thursday Jesus shared his last meal with his friends before Peter denied even knowing him and Judas betrayed him. This meal is commonly referred to as The Last Supper.

Communion Hymn: *"Christ, Let Us Come with You" (VU 458)*

A PRAYER OF REMEMBERING

One: Loving God,

All: We gather as friends of Jesus at this Communion table.

One: He took the bread and gave thanks to God. Jesus told his friends and us that we find him in sharing our brokenness with each other. He will feed us and be for us the Bread of Life.

All: We will take the bread, eat and give thanks to God for this divine human being we call Jesus.

One: Then Jesus took the cup and spoke of the new covenant. He poured the wine saying they would find him as they poured out their lives with and for each other and for the world.

All: We will take the cup and he will flow through us and be for us the Cup of Blessing.

One: We proclaim his life as one of love and service, a life we will strive to emulate from this day forward.

THE BLESSING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life- take and eat. This is my body shared with you. Each time you break bread together remember me."

The bread is shared.

One: Then Jesus took a cup, blessed it and after giving thanks passed it amongst his friends and said:

"Each time you do this remember me."

The Cup of Blessing is poured out for you. Take and drink.

(When Holy Communion has been shared, you are invited into a moment of meditation.)

THE SYMBOLIC ACT OF FOOT WASHING

One: After this meal of Remembrance Jesus does something else. He wraps a towel around his arm and bends down to wash his friend's feet. We see once again Peter's reluctance and he initially rejects the idea of Jesus washing his feet just as he argued with Jesus about his impending suffering and death. However, after Peter's initial resistance he then wholeheartedly submits. We see this duality in Peter often. But do we also see these patterns in ourselves? This whole act of foot washing becomes a symbol of service and serving one another in love. Jesus doesn't hate. He washes people's feet. Jesus does this so we may do the same.

The Ceremonial Act of Foot Washing is carried out...

Thank you, Jane Booker.

One: Now, you are invited to come forward for a symbolic foot washing. In the same way as Holy Communion is a symbolic feast using just small pieces of bread and juice, so this ritual is also symbolic. You do not need to remove your shoes and water is not used. After a large circle is formed, I will kneel in front of the first person and using a dry towel symbolically "clean" your feet. Then I will stand and hand the towel to the person whose feet I have just "washed". This person then kneels and symbolically "cleans" the feet of the next person and so on, until everyone in the circle has had their feet cleaned. The very last person then completes the circle by washing the feet of the minister.

When the foot washing ceremony is complete, you are invited to reflect on this experience before our evening service concludes.

Evening Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for not giving up on love. Thank you for your example of extravagant and radical love. You had to face the toughest of temptations, the cruelest of punishments but you never gave up on love. You show us that love bears a price. Love is costly and difficult. Thank you for your servanthood style of leadership. Thank you for showing us that death does not have the final word and that love is always the light in our tunnel of darkness.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: *"We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection"*
(VU 586)

Benediction

May God bless you and keep you.

May God smile upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness,

And grant you peace.

Amen.

“God of Holy Week, go with us into the night. May we remember the life and teachings of your beloved Jesus and in our remembering may our lives model his.”

