



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Thursday 9th April Maundy Thursday 7pm

Prepared by Rev'd Phillip Dixon.

This written worship has been prepared for you to use as we gather in separate places but united in love for our Lord Jesus Christ. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin "Mandatum novum do vobis" (a new commandment I give to you – John 13:34). Knowing that others are sharing in this worship with you in their own homes is an encouragement to us and brings us closer together. Please have some bread and juice available, so that we may share in Holy Communion.

Opening words:

On this very night, our Lord Jesus Christ said, "a new commandment I give to you, that you love each other, as I have loved you". John 13:34.

Hymn: StF 272 From heaven You came:
Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will, but yours,' he said.

Refrain



MAUNDY Thursday

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him
each other's need to prefer
for it is Christ we're serving.

Refrain Graham Kendrick (b1950)

Opening Prayer:

God our Father, You have invited us to share in the supper which Your Son gave to us, His Faithful Church. Nourish us, we pray, by His Presence, and unite us in His love; Jesus Christ, our Saviour is alive and reigns with You, interceding for us, the perfecter of our faith. May this very night, the night on which He was betrayed and handed over to death, unite us with You, our One True God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 12:14-27, Psalm 51:1-15
Mark 14:12-25.

Reflection: Symbols are what we use to illustrate, to emphasise and to understand more easily. They do not, of themselves, do anything other than to point to Jesus, His death and resurrection.

For me, three symbols that are essential in pointing to the saving work (the offer of salvation to us) of Jesus on Maundy Thursday are:

The washing of the disciple's feet by Jesus. The use of water to cleanse and to serve has allusions to the flood (Gen 6), Moses saved from death (Ex 2), the exodus from Egypt (Ex 14) and the water baptism offered by John the Baptist. 1 Peter 3:20-22 and 1 John 5:6-8 both give an excellent summary of the importance of water. The fact that Jesus undertook this washing, one of the lowest tasks in the household, says everything about His servant ministry (see Isaiah 53) coming to serve, not to be served, remembering that He also washed the feet of Judas knowing what Judas was about to do.

The institution of the Lord's Supper, Eucharist or Holy Communion, the sharing and partaking of bread and wine to represent the Lord's body and blood, given freely for us. Jesus describes Himself as the Bread of Life (John 6:35). He invites us...no, perhaps stronger than that, instructs us, to join with each other regularly to share in the bread and wine together as a sign of our love for one another and our love of God.

Lastly, the fire upon which Peter warmed himself in the courtyard. Fire is continually linked with the reality and presence of a Holy God, from Abraham and the burning torch, the burning bush, the Lord leading the people with a pillar of fire, the fiery furnace of Daniel, the burning of the tares

in Matthew 13 and tongues of fire at Pentecost. As a Christian in the Methodist tradition I must also mention Wesley; "my heart was strangely warmed".

Three symbols, one occasion. Maundy Thursday is the eve of God's great and wonderful salvation act, Christ crucified, for the redemption and reconciliation of us all to our Creator, a relationship restored through new resurrected life...but first the suffering and death, without which nothing is achieved. **Amen.**

A time to remember the Lord's impending suffering and share in **Holy Communion.**

Hymn: Gethsemane

Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD6tcMroY0A> for an excellent version.

Go to dark Gethsemane,
You who feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall;
Beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall!
O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of Christ to bear the cross.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Closing Prayer:

Loving Father we thank You for feeding us with Word and sacrament, sustain us with Your Spirit, that we may serve You here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven and we will share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We maintain silence and solitude as we conclude. Listen to Mark 12:32-42.