

Maundy Thursday Service Notes

April 9, 2020

Welcome to Maundy Thursday worship, home edition! As each of us sits in our own personal upper room tonight, may the presence of Christ give us peace and unite us spiritually. This is an opportunity for us to experience and know in a very real way that our unity is in the Spirit and that Christ abides with each of us personally, and corporately—even if from a distance.

The word “Maundy” comes to us as an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin “mandatum,” which means “commandment.” It refers to when Jesus, in the upper room during the Last Supper, said to the disciples after washing their feet: “A new *commandment* I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Tonight’s service is a modified version of what we were going to do in the sanctuary. Obviously, we will not be sharing the Lord’s Supper in person with bread and cup, but you are invited to participate with each other, from a distance, in remembering our communion with our Lord, and with each other. Use your imagination. And reach out with your heart—to God and to one another.

In preparation for listening to the service, you will want to open the order of worship on your computer or tablet to follow along as you listen, or print it out ahead of time. Or, just listen and take it in. The service will be most meaningful if you sit comfortably in a quiet place, free of distraction, perhaps having a meaningful symbol to look at: a table, bread and cup, a cross, etc.

The first song, “Feed Us, Lord” is a contemporary prayer-song, from our hymnal, asking the risen Christ to nourish our souls through communion with his presence. The other four songs are from the Taizé community, founded in 1940 as an ecumenical monastic order of both catholic and protestant folks, located in Burgundy, France. The songs that they write and sing are simple, meditative chant-like prayers. They are meant to be sung as prayers, and repeated so that the words have opportunity to sink in and move from our heads into our hearts. So as you listen or sing along, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,” as it says in one of the readings tonight. Each song will be sung three times after an introduction.

There will also be times of silence following each reading, for you to consider the questions for reflection. There is nothing wrong with the recording or your computer! It’s just time for silent reflection. We will lead you along.

Many thanks to our present-but-socially-distanced participants: Michelle Anderson, Bethany Reid, Sheri Teesdale, and Cathy Draper on flute.