



Maundy Thursday

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

APRIL 9, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THE SILENT MEDITATION FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE HEART

On this day we call “Maundy Thursday,” Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples.

Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other. Christ’s “mandate” is commemorated on Maundy Thursday---“maundy” being a shortened form of mandatum (Latin), which means “command.” It was on this night of Christ’s final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said this commandment to His disciples.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34).



The Prelude

Go to Dark Gethsemane

arr. Larry Visser

The Striking of the Hour

The Call to Worship

John 13:34

Mr. McRoberts

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Let us, therefore, worship Him with boldness in spirit and in truth.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward, to Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread His praise from shore to shore;
how He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;
how He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;
how for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

The Prayer of Adoration

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are enthroned in the majesty of heaven, yet You gave up that heavenly perfection to become a servant. We adore You for laying aside Your glory and clothing Yourself in complete humility as one of us. We praise You for the example of washing Your disciples' feet. Teach us to do as You have done. Deliver us from pride, jealousy, and ambition, and make us ready to serve one another in lowliness for Your sake, O Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Scripture Lesson

Mark 14:26-31

26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' 28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." 29 Peter said to Him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." 30 And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." 31 But he said emphatically, "If I must die with You, I will not deny You." And they all said the same.

Musical Meditation

The Power of the Cross Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
Brian Felder, Stephen Morris and Andria Alexander

The Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, we believe that You are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We love You above all things, and we desire to possess You within our souls. And since we cannot now receive You sacramentally, we beseech You to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves to You, together with all Your faithful people scattered in our various homes in this pandemic, and we embrace You with all the affections of our souls. Never permit us to be separated from You. Amen.

The Benediction

Minister: Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. And may that peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; the blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost and His very presence be with you, and remain with you until the day breaks and all these shadows flee away.

People: Amen!



The scriptures teach us that after the Lord's Supper, Jesus and the apostles went to the Garden of Gethsemane where our Lord was betrayed and arrested. Later that evening he was stripped, beaten, mocked, and unjustly accused. To symbolize this, the Sanctuary will be "stripped:" we remove the candlesticks, the paraments, the flags. The table is bare, plain, naked, and its stripping calls to mind that He was stripped for beating, for mockery, finally for crucifixion, death and burial.

We shroud the crosses with black, the only time of the year this color is used in worship, symbolizing His death on the cross. The candlesticks are removed and the lights go down, reminding us that the light of the Father's presence was removed from Him as He was forsaken on the cross. We leave the church in uneasy silence, forbidden the usual words of greeting, encouragement, appreciation for the sermon, the music, the small-talk that makes us feel at home. If we will live with Him, we must die with Him.

As the sanctuary is stripped and the piano is played, we invite you to contemplate Christ's passion and suffering.