

Leigh Memorial Church
Parramatta Mission, Uniting Church in Australia
Maunder Thursday
9 April 2020, 7.00PM

Foot/Hand Washing, Meal, Holy Communion & Tenebrae Service



This order of service is an adaptation of an early fourth century celebration of the Christian Church commemorating the occasion when, in the Upper Room, Jesus gathered with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion.

"Tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "Darkness". It symbolizes the apparent victory of the powers of darkness over Lord Jesus Christ and their failure to overwhelm him, who is the Light of the World.

Preparation:

This deeply spiritual service is held in a church. But under the present circumstances of social distancing due to Corona virus we cannot hold it in the church. Instead we are having it in our homes. So a simple preparation before the service would be helpful.

- Please keep a bowl of water handy. You would need it for feet/hand washing.

- On a clean plate please keep a small loaf of bread, and in a small glass some apple/fruit juice for Holy Communion.
- You may place a crucifix/cross on the table (the size doesn't matter)
- Please light a candle. If you are taking part in the service all by yourself please extinguish this candle at the end of the service when in the order of service it says, "The Christ candle is extinguished". Thanks.

Welcome and Introduction: Good evening everyone and welcome to the service. On this autumn evening we have gathered to worship God with Word and Sacrament. This day, which is called "Maundy Thursday" or "Holy Thursday" is the beginning of what is often known as "The Easter Triduum" – three days of remembering the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

The word Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means "commandment." In the act of washing the Apostles feet, Jesus gives them the commandment to "love and serve one another as I have loved you."

It is also the day Jesus celebrated The Last Supper with his apostles during the Passover meal, thereby instituting the sacrament we know as Holy Communion. Jesus commanded his guests to "do this in remembrance of me." This serves as a link to connect The Passover meal to The Lord's Supper and that Jesus was the new and final Passover Lamb.

During the Tenebrae part of the service we will hear words of Scripture about the stories of that fateful evening, and the events which led up to it. We know that in three days, there will be great rejoicing. But, let us not get ahead of ourselves. We cannot get around the fact that we must first witness the betrayal, a trial, great suffering, and a crucifixion.

The Call to Worship:

From our busy weekday lives either working at our workplaces or working from home, we pause in this hour, as followers of Christ, to remember Jesus' last earthly night with his disciples. In this unprecedented time of despair and death all around us may we listen to God's invitations to discipleship and service; and place ourselves besides the One who undertook a torturous journey to the Cross for the salvation of the world.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

Prayer of Preparation:

Inviting God, we thank you for gathering us this evening as friends as you did in Jesus in an Upper Room long ago. We come bearing the marks and burdens of a broken world. We come with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us, in the breaking of the bread, of our need and of your great sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in love and closer to you in faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our Friend and Redeemer. Amen.

THE WASHING OF FEET

John 13:1-14

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

Foot/hand Washing:

(You may like to wash your feet/hands in the bowl of water feeling Christ's touch. You might also choose to wash one another's feet/hands if more than one person is present.)

Prayer:

What an example of humility!

What an example of service!

What an example of selfless love!

Thank you, Lord Jesus, my Master and my Friend for washing my feet/hands and making me clean, and sharing your love with me, and teaching me that true love must put me on my knees to serve others with love and humility.

Amen.

THE MEAL

A simple meal may be eaten at this time.

HOLY COMMUNION

(Permission for this Online Gatherings of Worship with Holy Communion is a temporary pastoral measure granted by the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly Standing Committee, for the period of COVID-19 isolation measures only. You are welcome to take part in it. But if you choose to abstain from taking the elements in this context, be assured that you too would be held in the love of Christ and of this community. At the end of the service if there is any leftover bread or juice, please use them up with utmost reverence. Thank you.)

Introduction:

This has been quite a Lenten journey for us. We began so long ago with the service of Ash Wednesday, the smudge of ashes as reminders of our need to look within and to repent of the many ways in which we betrayed and denied Jesus in our lives. There have been barriers and obstacles on our journey and we have been working diligently to overcome them. Then came this big

interruption of Corona virus. From gathered community we became a dispersed community. During this period of protracted social distancing we feel the need for community in the presence of the One who binds together in his love and feeds us.

So tonight we have gathered scattered but bound together in a special way, longing to be fed by the Holy Meal that we may be sustained for this difficult journey ahead. Let us pray.

Prayer in unison: We have gathered here in our homes in your presence, O Lord Jesus, to share in a time of fellowship and remembrance. We have seen each other on our computer screen, talked, laughed and listened and the physical distance has been narrowed. And now you offer us a time to truly remember the greatest gift you have given to us - the gift of yourself. Prepare our hearts to receive it. Amen.

Hymn: TiS 693 (<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mkPL9LO6w>)

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the righteous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

(Deirdre Browne 1936 -)

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, stay with us in this time of isolation that we may feel you as close as our own breath.

Come close to us that we may come close to you. Forgive us that we may forgive one another. Renew us so that, where we have failed, we may start again. Amen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Living and Loving God, it is our joyful duty wherever we are to give thanks that through Jesus Christ you have shown us the power of Love, so that weak as we are, we can go boldly into the world with the cross as our symbol and the resurrection our hope. So, we join with your whole Church on earth and with all who have triumphed before us, to praise and honour you, saying -

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

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, O God, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

At supper with them he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying - *"Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, gave you thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying - *"Drink from this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for everyone for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me."*

Be present, Lord Jesus, by your Holy Spirit as you were in that Upper Room with your disciples, when you shared the Last Supper with them. Make yourself known to us as we break this bread and take this cup.

This we pray in your holy name. Amen.

The Breaking of the bread:

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us your peace.

The Distribution: (Please take a piece of bread; hold it until the following words are said: "Body of Christ broken for you." Then eat the bread. Similarly take the cup of drink, hold it until the following words are said: "Blood of Christ shed for you." Then drink the cup.)

Prayer after Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have walked with us on our Lenten journey. You have been with us as we encountered each hurdle. It is by your guidance and empowerment we have overcome so much. We have been strengthened by you. Now we give you thanks that you have brought us to this holy meal in which we have shared and become one with you through receiving the bread and the cup. Nourish our souls and spirits by your love, that having been empowered and inspired by your example, we may go into the world to serve, heal, and welcome all people in your name. Amen.

T E N E B R A E

Hymn: TiS345 (<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=9EG9Tlvs8hQ>)

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?.....

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?.....

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?.....

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?.....

Prayer: Lord, we come before you in the approaching darkness of our souls. We have travelled this Lenten journey, overcoming and conquering barriers that have kept us from serving you. We gathered at the gates of joy on Palm Sunday, and feasted at your table a few minutes ago. But now it is a different story as we journey through the scripture, witness the arrest and trial of the Innocent Saviour; as we watch him moved brutally from place to place, to be judged by people who have hardened their hearts against you; as we watch him suffer in the hands of people and then crucified. The sorrow that we feel lies heavy upon us. Lift us, Lord. Help us get through this time of darkness. Amen.

The Readings: (If you are taking part in this service all by yourself, and not via zoom, please read the following passages meditatively. At the end of all readings, please extinguish the candle. Thanks.)

NB. After each reading, a candle will be extinguished by the reader, and people will respond with the following words in bold (*Kyrie eleison*) except after the last reading:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

1. The Darkness of Betrayal - Matthew 26:20-25 (Leigh Fijian)

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹ and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

Reader: The Darkness of Betrayal (Extinguishes candle)

2. The Darkness of Inner Agony - Luke 22:40-44 (Leigh 9.30)

40 When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." 41 Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. 44 In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Reader: The Darkness of Inner Agony (Extinguishes candle)

3. The Darkness of Loneliness - Matthew 26:40-45 (Leigh Fijian)

40 Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? 41 Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Reader: The Darkness of Loneliness (Extinguishes candle)

4. The Darkness of Desertion - Matthew 26:47-50, 55-56 (Leigh 9.30)

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." 49 At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. 50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do

what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Reader: The Darkness of Desertion (Extinguishes candle)

5. The Darkness of Accusation - Matthew 26:59-67 (Leigh Fijian)

59 Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, 60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’” 62 The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” 63 But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” 64 Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man

seated at the right hand of Power

and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66 What is your verdict?” They answered, “He deserves death.” 67 Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him.

Reader: The Darkness of Accusation (Extinguishes candle)

6. The Darkness of Mockery - Mark 15:12-20 (Leigh 9.30)

12 Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call[b] the King of the Jews?” 13 They shouted back, “Crucify him!” 14 Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the

more, "Crucify him!" 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

16 Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. 17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. 18 And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 20 After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Reader: The Darkness of Mockery (Extinguishes candle)

7. Final reading **(Manas)**

John 1:1-5a

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness.....

But the people love the darkness rather than the light.

(No responses of Kyrie Eleison after this reading)

(The Christ candle is extinguished.)

Please remain seated in silence and pray and meditate as long as you desire. There is no benediction. We stay with our Lord in the darkness, awaiting the coming of the Easter Light. Thank you.