



WORSHIP FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

Welcome to written worship for Maundy Thursday

You may like to scan through all of this material before Maundy Thursday evening, and decide how it will offer reflective space for you as we approach Easter together. You may wish to connect your praying and reflecting with a pattern of eating and fasting. There may be points when you wish to keep a time of stillness or silence. If you share your home with others, you may need to plan together how this will work best for you all.

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You may begin your Maundy Thursday reflections around the table, with your evening meal, remembering Jesus and his friends, gathering to eat together...

We pray...

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe. We light this candle at the beginning of this meal, as a reminder that your word is a lamp for our feet and a light on our path, as a reminder that Jesus said 'I am the light of the world'...

Light a candle

Hymn: An Upper Room did our Lord prepare (StF 569; HP 594) or A New Commandment I give unto you (StF 242; MP 1)

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 'The first commandment is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

On this night Jesus said
'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'

As you enjoy your food, alone, or with others, take time to recall those things for which you are grateful...those ways in which you have received and shared love.

Pause to pray for those who are hungry this night...

Take time too, to appreciate the food you have, noticing, if you can, taste and texture, colour and smell...

Tonight is a night for stories...it is the night more than any other night when the people of Israel kept, and keep alive, the memories and the hopes embedded in their story of slavery, liberation and new beginnings.

In the great story of God and God's people, these stories of faith are not just to be told, they are to be embodied, to be re-lived.

This night we too must learn what it means to live our part in the drama of salvation...and so as we conclude our meal, we hear of the first Passover... and the story of the meal we re-member this night...

Read Exodus 12: 1-14 and John 13:1-17.

Take time with the images on the separate sheet

What seems most important in the scripture passages for you this Maundy Thursday? What catches your attention? What connections might the images help you to make? What might God be prompting you to reflect on further?

If you are alone this night, you may choose to phone or text someone so that you can reflect together.

Hymn: Great God your love has called us here (StF 499; HP 500) or Love Divine (StF 503; HP 267; MP 449)

On this night in other years, many of us will have shared Holy Communion. Tonight, we will share 'Spiritual Communion'. 'Spiritual Communion is a practice where we entrust ourselves to God in prayer, pledging ourselves to God once more as disciples and praying that God might give us spiritually the same grace we share when we physically receive Holy Communion.'

(Methodist Church website)

We draw on our collective memory of Jesus' life, death and resurrection - of the meals he shared, of the love he gave, of the tears he shed, of life poured out, of his rising again.

We draw on our own memory of sharing bread and wine one with another, at different times and in different places. We trust God, that in our re-remembering, our drawing together of those memories, God will bless us with that which we need for the next part of our journey.

So we prepare a space, maybe clearing the table... This space will accompany us through this evening and into Good Friday.

We light candles if we have them, or find other objects for our space... something to represent Jesus, God-with-us (ideally a candle, or maybe a cross); something to represent those who have been Jesus' companions through the ages (maybe small nightlights, toy figures, different buttons or stones etc); something to represent those with whom we would usually spend this night (maybe a photograph or a church newsletter); something to represent the whole creation, beloved of God (a globe, a coloured candle, some flowers...)

*As we recall our participation in the community of faith, through time and across space we pray **The Lord's Prayer.***

Do you remember the night on which Jesus was betrayed...?

He met with friends, they talked and ate, and Jesus shocked them. He took the bread, gave thanks to God and broke it and gave it to them saying 'This is my body given for you'.

Then, when they had finished eating he took the cup of wine from the table and again, gave thanks to God, and offered it to them - 'Take, drink, this is my blood which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.'

Dying, you destroyed our death

Rising, you restore our life

Lord Jesus, come in glory

Loving God, send your Holy Spirit
and declare your love again to us.

Stir in us that memory of celebration, that our spirits may
again taste your grace, and be one in Christ.

*You are invited to hold a time of silence in which to
remember those times when we have gathered and
received at the Lord's Table, and as our hearts and spirits
receive again the grace only God can give.*

Holy God, loving and faithful,
we thank you for your perfect gift of Christ,
your blessed Spirit who dwells in us,
your grace that transforms our lives
and confirms your love.
Grant us strength
that we may bear you in the world for others.
Amen.

Hymn: My song is love unknown (StF 277; HP 173; MP
478)

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

And this is the judgement,
that the light has come into the world,
and we loved darkness rather than light.

Read Mark 14: 26-72

If you have candles or other objects on your table, you may choose to remove them all now, leaving only the candle, or other object, representing Jesus. You may choose to complete your evening tasks in silence.



Welcome to written worship for Good Friday

You may choose to spend some or all of Good Friday in quietness...

As you come to remember the events of this day, if you are able, begin with one candle lit...

Hymn: Were you there when they crucified my Lord (StF 285; HP 181; MP 745)

Gracious and eternal God,
look with mercy on us
those for whom our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hand of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

silence

Read Psalm 22

silence

Read Mark 15:1-37

Blow out your candle

Merciful God

we pause today at the cross as inhabitants of one world...

So let us bring to mind those whose stories have been woven into the drama of the Passion of Jesus, along with countless human beings, before and since, who have played similar parts in the unfolding of this world's story...

Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross (StF 287; HP180; MP 755)

Read Mark 15: 37-47

Let us pray...

As the women sit opposite the agony which is held back only by the stone across the mouth of the tomb...we face the agony of the world...

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

...bringing before God all we see and hear that grieves and disturbs us...

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

...bringing before God all we see and hear that should grieve and disturb us, but does not...

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

...bringing before God the agony in our own souls and the souls of those we love and pray for...

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

...bringing before God the agony in the souls of those who know no one to love or pray for them...

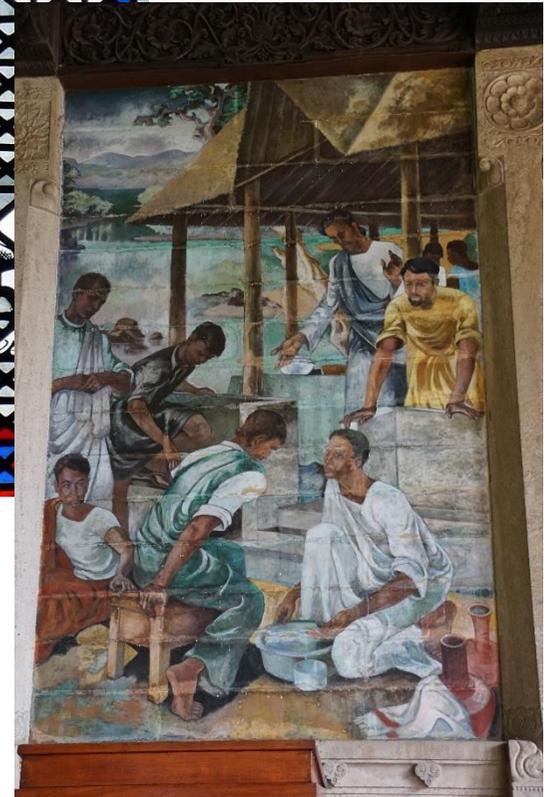
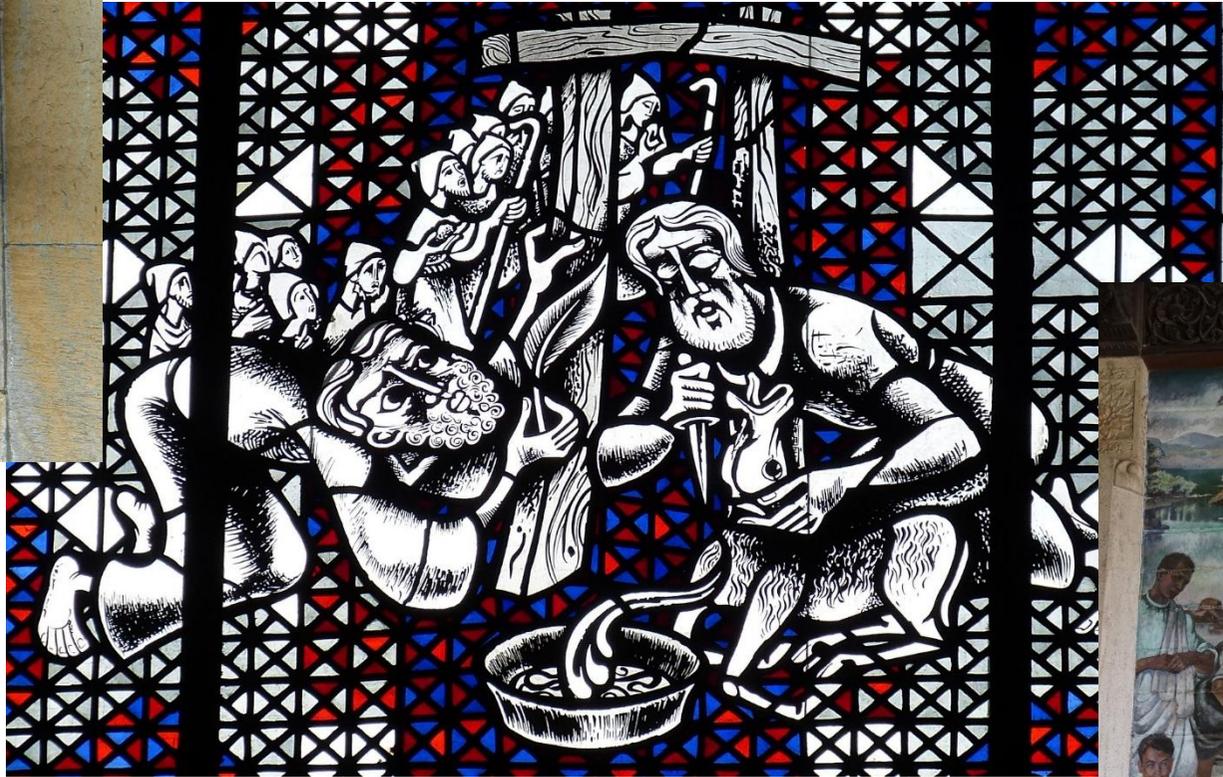
Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

We say **The Lord's Prayer**

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it to be the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord...

And as we go into the world, let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds...seeing both the pain and the possibility that surrounds us...



Links for photographs:

Top left: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/minxli/2739812524/>

Bottom right:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Trinity_College_Chapel_Mural_\(2\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Trinity_College_Chapel_Mural_(2).jpg)

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