

Holy Week 2020 – Maundy Thursday

Foot Washing Service

You will need: Bowl or basin, pitcher, and towels for drying.

Decide:

- What time you would like to gather to share in this service?
- Where will you gather to share in this service?
- How will you take turns washing each other's feet?
- Who will lead which parts of the service?



Prepare: Before the service, fill the pitcher with warm water. You may wish to dim the lights or light some candles.

Introduction

Say: John 13:1-17 tells the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet during the Last Supper. Foot washing is a powerful Christian symbol, dramatizing the servanthood of Jesus, both on the night before his death and in his continuing presence in our midst. Following the custom of the time, Jesus and the disciples would have had their feet washed by a servant when they entered the Upper Room, so it wasn't necessary to wash them again for the purpose of comfort or cleanliness. Jesus' foot-washing was not to clean their feet but to make a point about humble service.

Scripture: Read John 13:1-17

Prayer: Loving God, today we remember the night that you gave yourself up for us. Thank you for loving each one of us and offering us the gift of salvation. Teach us to follow your example and to love one another, just as you have loved us. Bless this time as we wash each other's feet. In your name we pray, Amen.

Foot washing

At this time, each person may remove their shoes and socks. Pour the water into the bowl/basin and wash each other's feet in silence. After everyone's feet have been washed, you may want to pause for a moment of silent prayer before answering the reflection questions.

Reflection Questions:

What was it like to have your feet washed?

What was it like to wash someone else's feet?

What do you imagine the disciples felt or thought when Jesus washed their feet?

Why do you think Jesus chose to wash feet as his final lesson with his disciples before he died on the cross?

What are other ways that we can "wash feet" in service to others?

What is God calling you to do, now that your feet have been washed?

Closing Prayer: Lord we thank you for this holy time together. Help us to follow the example of Christ, who humbly served others with great love. May we remember this time of foot washing together, just as we remember the night that Jesus washed his disciples' feet in the Upper Room. Amen.

And now let us pray the prayer that Christ taught his disciples to pray;

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.