

Maundy Thursday Worship at Home

Before you begin:

Make sure that you have something to eat and drink at your table.

You may choose a reader (or readers) for the different parts.

Remember that there are many people sharing this worship time with you.

It is rather like the first Passover. Every family celebrated that meal in their own home, yet all the families were celebrating "together."

Opening prayer: *[repeating after one reader, or simply praying]*

God is with us...

We are not alone...

Christ is with us...

He blesses us and feeds us and leads us home...

The Holy Spirit is with us...

Connecting us together at the Table....

Amen....

Scripture Reading

When we "break bread" together as a church in our worship,

we remember that the table was central to Jesus' ministry.

Tonight, we have gathered to turn our hearts to what happened the night

Jesus paused and celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples.

Tonight, we pause as well allowing ourselves to be fully present with one another and with the God who has met us here.

We invite you to take a deep breath.

[pause to take a couple of deep and audible breaths]

Know that God's Spirit is here as we remember Jesus' last meal.

Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.

He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

This is the Word of God.

For us the people of God.

Prayer

It is difficult not to be gathered together tonight.

We invite you to remember those you wish you were with tonight.

[pause]

We remember the people whose names we do not know;

but we know they need our prayers and God's comfort.

[pause]

We remember those who are sick and those who are caring for them.

We remember those who are struggling to find friends, food and comfort.

We remember those who are afraid.

[pause]

God in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Blessing

On this night, we remember Jesus and the meal he shared with his friends.

As they sat together, he blessed the meal and he asked his disciples to remember him whenever we break bread and raise a cup in thanksgiving.

This is why we call our communion prayers the "Great Thanksgiving."

In this feast of love and comfort, we call to mind things for which we are deeply grateful.

[name what you are grateful for out loud]

Now, I invite you to raise a plate of "something" on your table,
and/or a glass of whatever you are drinking.

[repeat each line after reader or simply pray]

Holy Comforter ...

We gather in your name...

invited by Jesus...

bound together with your Spirit...

in union with each other...

Feed our bodies and our spirits...

with your comforting presence...

so that we might be your comfort

to others...

Bless this food...

and break open our hearts...

Bless this drink...

and pour out your love...

Amen...

As you continue to eat and drink, remember these words of Jesus from John 13:34-35, *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

As you eat and as you go about the rest of this week we invite you to imagine or discuss what that love looks like as you reach across the social distance to loved ones, to friends, to neighbors and even strangers.

Benediction

And now may you shelter not only in place, but in peace.

May the peace and comfort of Christ be present with you now and forevermore. Amen.