

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

April 1, 2021 – Maundy Thursday Family Service



On Maundy Thursday (from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning mandate, or commandment), we celebrate the Last Supper and Jesus' washing the feet of the disciples. From Jesus' example, we learn to be a loving servant to all. For this service, you will need candles. You may choose to wash your family's feet at the end of the service, but this is not a central part of this service.

Centering

Take three deep breaths and become aware of God's presence among you. At this time, you are invited to light candles as a reminder of God's presence among us always.

The Opening Prayer

Officiant Let us pray.
People **God be in my head.**
God be in my heart.
God be on my left side.
God be on my right side.
God be in my whole life.

The Response

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

I love God, because he knows my voice and God always listens to me.

Can I ever repay you, God, for all the good things you've done for me?

My cup of salvation is full and I lift it up to offer God a toast.

Everything I vowed to do for God I will do, and everyone will know that God is good.

Can I ever repay you, God, for all the good things you've done for me?

I know I will always be precious to God, even when I die.

God, I owe you my life. You have cut me loose from the ties that were holding me back.

Can I ever repay you, God, for all the good things you've done for me?

Thank you, God. I can't thank you enough.

I've promised to do good in your name among your people.

Can I ever repay you, God, for all the good things you've done for me?

The Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Taken from *Children of God Storybook Bible*, by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. ISBN: 9780310719120

Wondering questions about the story

- I wonder why Jesus wanted to wash the disciples' feet.
- I wonder what you would have said to Jesus that night.
- I wonder if there has ever been a time you needed help, but didn't want to ask for it.
- I wonder how you feel when you help others.

Storytelling and Reflection

Last Stop on Market Street, by Matt de la Peña, with pictures by Christian Robinson. ISBN: 9780399257742

This book has a beautiful message for Maundy Thursday. Nana and CJ are not rich in material things, and CJ's struggle to understand why others have things that he doesn't is so palpable. Yet, Nana is teaching CJ about what it means to have a servant's heart, to see all people as made in the image of god, and that there is treasure in clay jars.

Wondering questions about the story

- I wonder where CJ and his Nana were going after church.
- I wonder why CJ complained about having to ride the bus.
- I wonder who was your favorite character on the bus and what you'd like to talk about with that person.
- At the end of the story, Nana said, "Sometimes when you're surrounded by dirt, CJ, you're a better witness for what's beautiful." I wonder what Nana meant.
- I wonder if you think CJ was glad that they came to the soup kitchen at the end of the story.

Praying Together

A new commandment, you gave at the table,
to love one another as you made us able.
When we love one another, all will know it is true
that we and our friends, indeed, follow you.
So let us remember the commandment to love
so the world becomes more like heaven above. **Amen.**

Together we remember any special prayers and requests that we have individually or as a family. Share them out loud now and pray for one another's needs.

**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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Going in Love

Close your time of worship by extinguishing your candles and observing a few moments of silence together. If you choose to extend the service by washing one another's feet or hands, it is appropriate to do that prior to extinguishing the candles. You might choose to talk about how it felt to be the one washing and how it felt to be the one getting washed.

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April 2, 2021 – Good Friday Family Service



On Good Friday, we commemorate the death of Jesus on the cross. Today's worship service is an opportunity to wonder about who you say Jesus is and what the symbol of the cross means. For this service, you will need candles. A cross is helpful to set the mood for today, but is not necessary.

Centering

Take three deep breaths and become aware of God's presence among you. At this time, you are invited to light candles as a reminder of God's presence among us always.

The Opening Prayer

Officiant Let us pray.
People **God be in my head.**
 God be in my heart.
 God be on my left side.
 God be on my right side.
 God be in my whole life.

The Response

Psalm 22 (selected verses)

My God, have you forgotten about me? Why have you left me all alone?
Do you even hear my cry? Can you hear in my voice how distressed I am?
I cry for you in the day, and I hear no answer from you.
During the night I cry out, and I cannot sleep.

My God, have you forgotten about me?
Why have you left me all alone?

I know that you are the Holy One,
the one all Israel praises.
Those who came before me trusted you and you came to help them.
They cried out to you and you heard their voice.
They trusted in you and were not disappointed.

My God, have you forgotten about me?
Why have you left me all alone?

My soul will live for God;
my children and their children will serve God, too;
they will always be known as God's children.
They will make you known to people who haven't even been born yet.

My God, have you forgotten about me?
Why have you left me all alone?

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 26-27

Taken from *Children of God Storybook Bible*, by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. ISBN: 9780310719120

Wondering questions about the story

- I wonder what Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- I wonder why Pilate wanted to please the crowd.
- I wonder why we say "Good" Friday.

- I wonder what you might have said to Jesus on Good Friday.
- I wonder why the cross is such an important symbol for us.
- I wonder what you think will happen next in this story.

Storytelling and Reflection

Muddle & Mo, by Nikki Slade Robinson. ISBN: 9780544716124

*Today's scripture presents different lenses in how people saw and attempted to understand Jesus' identity. Who **is** Jesus? Is he a criminal? A king? A radical? A truth teller? A friend? Pilate seems to remain puzzled as well. Who is this person standing before him? What has he done?*

Muddle the duck has lots of questions about Mo's identity. Mo just doesn't seem very duck-like for a duck. Eventually, Muddle realizes that Mo isn't a duck at all, but a goat. The texts for today invite us to ask questions, to wonder about Jesus, and to affirm our belief in who Jesus is and why God sent him into the world.

Wondering questions about the story

- I wonder why Muddle thinks Mo is a duck.
- I wonder if you've ever been mistaken for someone else.
- I wonder what is the most important thing for others to know about you.
- I wonder what you like most about people who are different from you.
- I wonder who you say Jesus is.
- I wonder who your family and friends say Jesus is.

Praying Together

When Jesus died that day on the cross
 all creation together sighed, "This is a great loss."
 Time grew empty and the afternoon dark
 as the light of the world had not even a spark.
 The women stood by at a distance in tears
 wondering what would become of their fears.
 Fear not, the angels soon will say.
 Jesus's death has given us the way. **Amen.**

Together we remember any special prayers and requests that we have individually or as a family. Share them out loud now and pray for one another's needs.

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Going in Love

Close your time of worship by extinguishing your candles and observing a few moments of silence together.

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and governmental and diocesan restrictions, the church is currently closed for in-person gatherings. Please contact us via email or phone.

Notices

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Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Please see the website for details and clickable links. It will be updated as links are provided.

- ✦ **Holy Week in a Box** begins today. If you reserved your HWIAB, activities take place Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday.

- ✦ **Maundy Thursday** worship will be online on our YouTube channel. The service will be geared more towards families, but will be a prayerful experience for all. You are invited to partake of this worship experience anytime during the day.

- ✦ **Good Friday** worship will be posted online on our YouTube channel. The service will also be geared towards families with younger children, but will have elements that may help you draw closer to Jesus on the cross. You are invited to visit YouTube to view and interact at any point during the day.

- ✦ Pastor Jason will be posting **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday** meditations (2-5 minutes in length) on the YouTube channel with links from the Facebook page as well.

- ✦ You are invited to join with others around the Partnership for traditional Holy Week services:
 - **Palm Sunday Service, March 28 at 10 a.m.** Palm Sunday worship will include a narrative reading of Mark's Passion Gospel. Join at <https://zoom.us/j/127336938?pwd=cm8zUWwhoY2loTjYyKy91YURsTVBCQTo>
If you are asked for a password, use lakeerie. To join by phone instead of video, dial 646-876-9923 and use code 127336938#.

 - **Maundy Thursday Vigil, April 1 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.** A continuous Zoom vigil will take place from 8 p.m. Maundy Thursday to 8 a.m. Good Friday. Participants will watch in prayerful silence with hourly breaks for a brief liturgy.

 - **Good Friday Vigil, April 2 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The Good Friday prayer vigil will include voices from across the partnership offering reflections on the seven last words of Christ. The Very Rev. John Downey will preach. Watch future newsletters for Zoom information.

 - **Good Friday Service, April 2 at 12 p.m.** At noon on Good Friday Bishop Sean will lead a traditional Good Friday liturgy with the Passion of John and the Solemn Collects. Watch future newsletters for Zoom information.

 - **Holy Saturday, April 3 at 10 a.m.** A simple Holy Saturday liturgy with homily. Watch future newsletters for Zoom information.

- ✦ **Easter Sunday** will be a glorious day indeed as we return to our beautiful sanctuary. Due to New York State capacity requirements, we must insist on reservations for church. Please sign up on the website. We anticipate availability for 76 congregants.