



## Maundy Thursday Toolkit

Friends,

This Maundy Thursday service is created so that you can celebrate with friends or family safely. You may choose to celebrate with your immediate family, close friends you feel safe gathering with, or gathering safely outside. Maundy Thursday is a celebration of the commandment to love one another that Jesus has given to each of his disciples. Enjoy this time together as a celebration of the love we share with one another and with Christ. For those who feel most comfortable celebrating by themselves, this resource is also created for you, enjoy dinner and consider journaling through the questions prompts.



Maundy Thursday is a celebration in the Christian faith when we celebrate and remember the commandment Jesus gave us to love one another. Maundy is a shortened form of the Latin word "mandatum" which means command, we celebrate the commandment Jesus gave us. We remember the way in which Jesus shared this commandment with his disciples – he fellowshiped with them around the table, washed their feet, and enjoyed their company over dinner. This day marks one of the last days Jesus enjoyed with his disciples before his trial and crucifixion. Celebrating this holy day around the table will be reminiscent of how Jesus shared his life and ministry with his friends in his last week with them.

It is my hope and prayer that this time shared around the table would be one where you experience love and are reminded of the fellowship Christ shared with his disciples.

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Associate minister for education

### PREPARE

- Make a simple meal of bread and soup or order something from a favorite local restaurant. Try this quick and easy recipe for unleavened bread ([https://recipesforourdailybread.com/unleavened-communion-bread-recipe/#\\_a5y\\_p=3474897](https://recipesforourdailybread.com/unleavened-communion-bread-recipe/#_a5y_p=3474897)) and this simple vegetable soup (<https://www.cookingclassy.com/vegetable-soup/>) or make your favorite recipes!
- Set the table so that you can enjoy the meal together. Consider setting the table with some or all of these items:
  - o Tablecloth
  - o Candles
  - o Greenery that you find in your yard or on a walk



- Chalice or large cup filled juice or wine\*
- A favorite plate or platter to place bread on\*
- A favorite item from your family or the church – a cross, a special decoration, etc.
- A bible\*

*\*you will need these items throughout the meal*

- [Listen to this playlist on Spotify](#) while you prepare your meal or during dinner time.

## DURING DINNER

Use these cues during your dinner time together, if you have multiple people joining for dinner consider giving everyone a small part to read or for non-readers a short word to say such as "Amen." Enjoy your meal together, when Jesus sat at the table with his disciples they did more than just eat, they enjoyed conversation, friendship, and love, enjoy that as well.

### Opening

Say these words together – have one person read each line or read them aloud to yourself.

*Option: while you say these words light any candles you have set on your dinner table*

We gather together to celebrate and remember

To remember that God loves us

To celebrate that God loves the whole world

To remember that Jesus came to teach, heal, pray, and save

To celebrate that Jesus taught us to love, heals our hurts, prays for us, and offers us new life

We gather around the table to remember Jesus and his acts of generous and gracious love.



## PRAY

God of love, you have met us in loving ways throughout time. You plant love into our lives through the caring acts of friends and strangers and the generosity of your Spirit. Tonight we gather together as your beloved children to remember this love and draw near to you. May your Spirit enliven our conversation, instill love in our Spirits, and help us to hope for new life this day. In Christ we pray, Amen.

## READ

*John 13:1-17 – you might choose to have various people at your table (use prompts below)*

Reader One: Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

Reader Two: Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Reader Three: Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"



Reader One: Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

Reader Two: After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

Reader Three: Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

### TABLE CONVERSATION

Use some or all of these questions for your conversation

- At Jesus' final meal with his disciples, he does two important things: he eats dinner with them and he washes their feet. What is the importance of Jesus washing the disciples' feet? How might that make them feel?
- What is a time that you have felt the spirit of community around the table? How might the disciples have experienced that as well?
- When Simon Peter asks Jesus if he will wash his feet Jesus responds that he will and says, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Has there been a time or experience in your life when you didn't realize the beauty or love someone was sharing with you until much later? What was that experience? How did you then see the love they shared?
- What things help make you feel loved by those around you? What things help you feel loved by God?



### REMEMBERING JESUS THROUGH COMMUNION

*Read Matthew 26:26-30 aloud*

Ask one person (if you are worshipping with children, this may be a good role for them to help with) .As Jesus speaks of the bread, take your loaf of bread and break it and share it among those gathered with you. As Jesus speaks of the cup, pour some of the cup (juice or wine) into the cups of those gathered with you. Eat the bread and drink from the cup. As you do this remember that you share this feast with countless Christians across the world who celebrate tonight in their homes.

### CLOSING PRAYER

"Holy God, you meet us through this meal and through our conversations and relationships with one another. Help us to grow in love of all your people, to trust in your grace, and to hope for the new and amazing things you are doing. In Christ we pray, Amen."

