

A Guide to Worship for Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday it was the last evening meal Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. It marks three key events in Jesus' last week: his washing of his disciples' feet, his institution of the Lord's Supper, and his new commandment to love one another. The name "Maundy Thursday" comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, referring to the "new commandment" (*The Worship Sourcebook*, c. 2004, CRC Publications, p.593)

Jesus, said, "For I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." John 13:15

As we remember this night with virtual worship on our website, here are some ways you and those you may be worshipping with may want to prepare for and participate in the service.

Before the Service:

Wash your hands and imagine that Jesus is drying your hands with a towel.

Have your evening meal, try asking at least one of the following 10 questions around the table, as recommended by StoryCorp founder (and 2015 TED Prize Winner) Dave Isay:

What are you grateful for?

What are you proudest of?

What has been the happiest moment in your life so far?

What has been the hardest moment in your life, and how did you get through it?

What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

Who has been kindest to you?

How do you want to be remembered?

If your great great grandchildren could listen to this years from now: is there any wisdom you'd want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?

If you could honor one person in your life – living or dead – by listening to their story, who would that be, what would ask them and why?

Feel free to modify these questions for your family situation or come up with your own.

If you are alone, perhaps you could arrange for virtual gathering. Or you may want to just reflect on each question yourself.

During the Service:

We will remember the Lord's Supper and you are welcome to participate with your own elements at home (bread, chips, crackers, cookies of any kind and juice/wine/water/milk).

The second part of the service will be where we remember Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane, the disciples deserting him and his arrest.