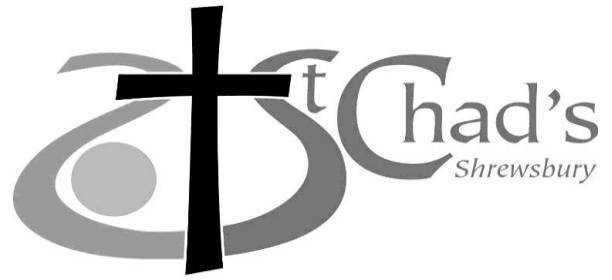


THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# **Maundy Thursday Prayer at Home with Handwashing**

## Preparation

*Set out a bowl of water and a clean towel. Sit with them before you and begin with these texts. First, remember God's forgiveness:*

*Officiant:* God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace we have been saved.  
Our sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Almighty God strengthen us with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. Amen.

*Then pray the prayer for this night:*

*Officiant:* Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us.  
Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all,  
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## The Gathering

*Officiant:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Our Lord Jesus Christ says:  
'If you love me, keep my commandments.'  
'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.'  
Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,  
and ask him to cleanse us.

Have mercy on us, O God,  
in your great goodness:  
according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out our offenses.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.  
Christ, have mercy.  
*People:* **Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from all sin and we shall be clean;  
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.  
Lord, have mercy.  
*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days.  
*People:* **Amen.**

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

## **The Collect**

*Officiant:* God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us in his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Read this Reading*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

Beloved: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Then Read the Gospel:*

*Officiant:* Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
I give you a new commandment,  
says the Lord: Love one another as I have loved you.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

*Officiant:* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

*John 13:1-17,31b-35*

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 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. 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?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter 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!' 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.'

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. 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. Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

*Please sit*

*Having read these readings, think of this:*

This word about the love of Jesus is always the beginning of any time. By remembering the Passover and the Last Supper and the footwashing, we are not trying to get back to an old time. In the face of the suffering and death with which the world is filled, our trying would not come to much. But God's word comes to us now. To our time. Even when we cannot meet for the holy supper together, this word — which takes these three nights to say — comes to us: Jesus Christ is our forgiveness. He is the Lamb whose blood marks the doors of our houses and bodies. In the power of the Spirit, he has washed our feet and our lives. And he turns us toward our neighbors. In this word — and in the cross proclaimed tomorrow and the resurrection proclaimed on Saturday night — Easter comes out to hold us already.

## **The Homily**

Kay Rogers, Seminarian

In the Gospel for today, John 13:1-17; 31-35, Jesus acted as a servant washing his disciples' feet. In Jesus' day people wore simple open sandals and they walked along dusty roads in heat, so feet became dirty and smelly. A servant of the household would normally perform this service to guests. There won't be any symbolic foot washing in church this year, however, frequent handwashing has become part of our lives to ward off the corona virus.

Two weeks ago, the government-imposed restrictions on our lives as we knew them; worshipping at church, having coffee afterwards, going to work, shopping, visiting family, inviting friends into our home for a meal, all stopped as social distancing began. This brought new challenges to everyone, overcoming fear, staying well, isolation and loneliness, lack of routine, having no workplace.

Now we are finding a new normal, beginning new rhythms to our day and week, starting new activities, discovering new ways to reach out to our neighbours.

I have been observing the outbreak of kindness and love shown by many towards

other people, for example, clapping from the doorstep to show appreciation for NHS workers. Community isn't just the place where we live but where we group together, and some of these communities are now on the internet, keeping people connected with church, family, friends and colleagues supporting each other.

Daily I see acts of service towards others, people who are no longer able to work putting their new found time to serve others, to collect and deliver food and medicines for those who are self-isolating, phone calls to befriend the lonely and newly isolated. There are many people, those now called key workers who are still maintaining their usual role; for example, a supermarket worker, who comes in to contact with so many people during his working days and then isolating on his days off so as to protect his family.

The rainbow has long been a symbol of hope. Sunshine through the rain, colour and light in the sky above us. I went for a walk around the streets where I live and on a path through an open green space, someone, perhaps a family, may be more than one, had chalked rainbows and messages to all who walked on it. Such as 'stay safe', 'smile', 'thank you to all the keyworkers', 'wash your hands', 'keep talking'.

There were other rainbows in windows of the houses I passed.

Another reminder that humanity is doing what Jesus commanded us to do, 'love one another'.

Our public acts of worship might be curtailed, but we can always pray for those we love and our communities. Jesus regularly took time out and away from the crowds to pray to his Father.

We are the church, serving one another, loving one another, God is in the actions, spreading His love through each of us.

*Here you may wash your hands, using the water in the bowl, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet.*

*Officiant:* Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Then you may pray together with all of us these intercessions for our church and world:*

*Officiant:* United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words **Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptised around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant Archbishop Justin Welby and all our clergy faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time, and accompany those preparing for baptism.

*A brief silence.*

*Officiant:* Hear us, holy God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into care-givers of your plants and animals.

*A brief silence.*

*Officiant:* Hear us, bountiful God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the needy.

*A brief silence.*

*Officiant:* Hear us, sovereign God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organisation.

*A brief silence.*

*Officiant:* Hear us, faithful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for Chris Cheshire, Cathryn, Emma, Sarah Doyle, Malcolm Booth, Jessica, Laverne, Maureen, Rachel, Jubilee, Lara, McKell and for those we name before you now.

*A brief silence.*

*Officiant:* Hear us, gracious God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts.

*A longer period of silence.*

*Officiant:* Hear us, loving God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith, especially the martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer I, whom we commemorate today, and Joanna Nichols, Beryl Babel, Pamela Joy Owens, Mary Barker, Robert Plimmer, George Marston, Robert Allen, Dorothy Latham, Selwyn Jones, Michael Parker.

May your will for them be fulfilled.

*A brief silence.*

*Officiant:* At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory.  
Hear us, eternal God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Pray the Lord's Prayer*

*Officiant:* As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*People:* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation**



**but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Finally, remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death, pray this Psalm.*

## **PSALM 88**

O Lord, my | God, my Saviour,  
by day and night I | cry to you.  
Let my prayer enter in- | to your presence;  
incline your ear to my | lamentation.  
For I am | full of trouble;  
my life is at the brink | of the grave.  
I am counted among those who go down | to the pit;  
I have become like one who | has no strength;  
lost among the dead, like the slain who lie | in the grave,  
whom you remember no more, for they are cut off | from your hand.  
You have laid me in the depths | of the pit,  
in dark places, and in | the abyss.  
Your anger weighs up- | on me heavily,  
and all your great waves | overwhelm me.  
You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be ab-|horred by them;  
I am in prison and can-|not get free.  
My sight has failed me be- | cause of trouble;  
Lord, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my | hands to you.  
Do you work wonders | for the dead?  
Will those who have died stand up and | give you thanks?  
Will your lovingkindness be declared | in the grave,  
your faithfulness in the land | of destruction?  
Will your wonders be known | in the dark  
or your righteousness in the country where all | is forgotten?  
But as for me, O Lord, I cry to | you for help;  
in the morning my prayer | comes before you.  
Lord, why have you re-|jected me?  
Why have you hidden your | face from me?  
Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the | point of death;  
I have borne your terrors | and am helpless.  
Your blazing anger has swept | over me;  
your terrors | have destroyed me;

they surround me all day long | like a flood;  
they encompass me on | every side.  
My friend and my neighbour you have put a- | way from me,  
and darkness is my on-|ly companion.

*The Three Days continue tomorrow with the service for Good Friday.*

*Officiant:* Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
*People:* **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*Officiant:* Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*People:* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Texts from Common Worship are © The Archbishop's Council 2000, 2006  
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