

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Bible Reading John 13.1-20

Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and he loved them to the very end. . . So, he rose from the table . . . and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with a towel round his waist. John 13.1,4-5

Reflection

Jesus' humble act of loving service to his disciples is remembered around the world on Maundy Thursday. And it has inspired many to do similar acts of care and compassion toward others.

Jesus is serving his disciples as a reminder of what service really means, not a lording over others, but a willingness to set aside one's own wishes and desires for a moment to think of someone else and their needs and to offer to help. It has been incredibly heart-warming to see so many during this coronavirus epidemic reaching out to neighbours and providing them with shopping and picking up prescriptions. My neighbour and I have started a baking ministry in which we bake something from scratch each day and hand them out to our older neighbours. (Using gloves and hygiene methods and social distancing, of course.) I'm sure that you can think of other examples.

Jesus was aware of the disciples' lack of understanding of the ordeal that lies ahead for him, and their vulnerability. His betrayer is present at the meal table of this last Passover meal with them. He responds to Peter's embarrassment by telling him that he needs to be humbled into receiving washing but reassuring him that he already belongs to God. At this time of uncertainty and anxiety we can be assured of God's love with us always and we give to others out of what we have first received from God. Are we humble enough to rest in God's love ourselves, and ready to receive from others, as well as give to them in mutual care and concern? For that is the way to build a community where all are respected and cared for.

Prayer & Action

This day you might like to fetch a bowl of water and a towel and wash your hands as we would have done at our Maundy Thursday service today. This may be your action symbolizing offering of yourself to God to be cleansed, and ready to serve others.

Loving God help us to receive your grace and mercy and be ready then to serve others with patience and respect. Guide all those who are caring for those ill with the virus. Surround those ill with your love and inner peace. In Jesus' name, AMEN.