

Fed for the Journey

A Maundy Thursday worship service
for around the table

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Centering

*Centering song: MV 14, Where Two or Three are Gathered

O God of our watching, our waiting, our journey, ever leading,

Fed us that we may walk in your path.

Fill us with the spring of life

that we may be nourished.

And when life seems dry

and we cannot go on

Help us draw on your strength. Amen.

We name our commitment to the journey

There comes a moment
when the reality cannot be hidden
and the truth must be named
that life is not always a blessing,
that humanity is not always humane.

**Love is sometimes met with hate,
justice with persecution,
life with death.**

And sometimes this is what we get
when we choose to follow a Holy way.

There comes a moment
when we must ask ourselves can we continue this journey?

**Or does fear
lead us to shake our head and close our eyes
turn around and run the other way?**

There comes a moment
when we need something more to carry on

**bread for the journey,
wine for new life,
the holy grasped in the ordinary.**

Tonight we are invited to partake
in the Thursday Meal
the Sacrament of Communion
that feeds us for tomorrow
and for each moment that feels more like curse than blessing.

**We need the fuel of life
that we may find in God
in neighbour, and in creation
the love, hope,
and strength to take each blistered step with Christ.**

Our presence is our commitment to walk into this Good Friday
and all the Good Fridays of life
**with the love of Christ in our hearts
and God as our compass.**

Hymn: VU 458, Christ, Let Us Come with You

We ground ourselves in faith

Scripture: Exodus 12:37-42

(bread is set on the table and uncovered)

We uncover our bread because as we sit together we remember that liberation sometimes brings hardship, love sometimes means going into pain filled situations, hope is at times birthed out of sorrow and that whenever we take the journey of life, love, and liberation, God walks with us.

Scripture: Exodus 17:1b-6.

(Water bowl and chalice are set on the table)

Scripture: John 13:3-17

(water is poured into the bowl)

We are invited to wash and dry one another's hands remembering the new commandment that Jesus gave to his disciples "As I have loved you, love one another." As you wash your sister or brother's hands I invite you to say "You are loved." May the intimacy of touch remind us of the love we share.

(we wash one another's hands)

We celebrate at the Table of Christ,
coming to be fed for the journey that lies ahead,
the heartbreak of Good Friday
and the silence of Holy Saturday.
We partake in this feast as a reminder
that no matter what life brings,
whatever heartbreak of silence fills our lives,
God is with us, we are surrounded by those who love us
and together we journey with God to life, love, and liberation.

We share in the meal of life

Together we pray:

We are not alone

Christ is indeed with us

Let us join in a great praise

Met by the holy how can we not give thanks!

While the disciples were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, and prayed
thanksgiving. (*Mark 14:2*)

We remember that life is not cursed,
not sin infused,
not a failed attempt by you, O God

We give you thanks O God
for the blessings of life
as we remember your presence
in the midst of green shoots
the heat of summer,
fall's brilliant colours,
and in the hush of winter
In birth cries
and exiting breaths,
For the creation which we are part of
and for your creative presence we give thanks.

We remember and we celebrate life
We give thanks for your presence
that invigorates us like the air we breath,
that leads us like the wind that blows,

that is ever present, ever guiding, ever inspiring.

For your spirit that flows from prophet's dreams,
protestors' cries for justice,
mothering words and transformative places.

For your spirit-led creation which we are part of
and for your presence in,
around, and beyond all things,
we give thanks.

We remember and celebrate life
Together we join in saying the ancient words of our faith:

**Holy, Holy, Holy,
God of life and love
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is the one who comes in your name
Hosanna in the highest**

We remember and we celebrate life
We give thanks for the vision embodied
the love enfleshed,
the holy dream incarnated

For the Christ
Challenging us,
healing us,
transforming us,
and leading us.

For Jesus of Nazareth
And for all the ways we encounter him
we give you our thanks.

We remember and relive:
On the night before
love was put to the test
compassion walked into hell
and words of hatred and fear were spoken

before the death cries rung out
and the silence was disturbing
 There was a meal of life, love, and liberation.

(Mark 14:22-25)

Then Jesus took that bread, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying “take this, this is my body.”

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Jesus said, “This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God’s covenant. I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine in the Dominion of God.”

We remember and we celebrate life
The mystery of faith that says

**Christ lived,
Christ died,
Christ is risen,
Christ comes again.**

We pray,
God of all,
of life, love, and liberation’s journey,
take this simple meal
and in the fractured elements shared
may your presence be known,
may your spirit be indwelling,
and may communion be a reality. Amen.

The stories have been shared,
our commitment of love sealed,
the bread is broken,
the cup poured,
the table is ready.
I invite you to take the bread at your side, split it with the person beside and say
“bread for the journey,”
I invite us to pass the pitcher around fill each other’s cups and say “the cup of
blessing.”

And as we share and savour the bread and juice

let us know that Christ is with us,
life is abundant and beautiful,
and we are held in a deep Sacred love.

***Hymn: MV 202, Bread for the Journey**

We go out on the journey

When love leads to suffering,
justice to persecution,
life to death,
and you seem absent

**may we continue to love in your radical way,
seek justice without small print,
live life without fear of death.**

Fed, may we go into this Friday

**And all of the broken places of life
knowing that we never walk alone.
Amen! Let it be so!**

Then (Jesus and his disciples) sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. (*Mark 14:26.*)

Hymn: VU 595, We are Pilgrims

Blessing:

A blessing, not a benediction,
for our worship continues through Good Friday and into Easter.

But For now:

As we make our way from this place
may this be our blessing:
In each moment
there is enough love
there is enough peace
there is enough justice
and all of these gifts
God has planted within each of us.

Together may we be a field full of grain
an orchard full of ripe fruit

a banquet filled with joyous living.
We go with God
with one another
to life. Amen.