Welcome

Explanation of Maundy Thursday & Taize

_Tonight, is traditionally referred to as Maundy Thursday. It is the last night Jesus spent with the disciples when they shared their last supper together, the holy Passover Seder. The term Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin mandatum which is the first word of the phrase "Mandatum novum do vobis.." "A new commandment I give you...” Tonight, we remember the new commandment Jesus gave us and the new covenant he established._

_We’ll be worshiping in the style of Taize. The Taize Community is an ecumenical Christian monastery in France. One of its trademarks is the singing of distinctive songs and prayers during candlelit services. Taizé music highlights simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture, sung repeatedly. The repetition is designed to help meditation and prayer._

_I invite you now to settle into presence with God this evening. Get comfortable, feel free to close your eyes, there is nothing you’ll need to read. Whenever we sing, I will begin, and you can join in whenever you’d like._

**Sing: Bless the Lord FWS #2013**

sing many times through

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. After he washed the disciples’ feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, “Do you know what I’ve done for you? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do.

Little children, I’m with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—‘Where I’m going, you can’t come.’ “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

Sing: The Gospel in One Word is Love (Love Canon)   sing many times through
(Words: American Folk Hymn & Music: English Folk Melody)

Hear now this night imagined by Rev. Carol Ferguson
Two hands and a basin
and a towel at his waist
against twenty-four feet
that had followed him this far.

Without his outer robe he looked
frail, tired, old almost
and they heard how his knees creaked
as he bent towards each pair of feet
sore and smelly
calloused and hairy
cracked and dirty.

He never looked up,
as if feet were all that mattered.
As if he could heal the whole world
with water and a towel.

Philip’s, with the long scar down the
ankle—
he’d never heard the story
of how Philip came by that scar.
He wouldn’t have time now.

Andrew’s, whose feet were so small,
with toes like walnuts
and pale stripes where his
sandals had been.

On and on he went,
and didn’t speak,
and didn’t preach,
and didn’t promise
anything but clean feet.

In his hands he nestled a foot
with long bones, and dirt
in the creases on the toes
and a bad blister on the right heel.
Half the skin torn away—blood-raw.

*Why didn’t he tell us?* he thought.
*We would have slowed down,*
*found some wool*
to pad his sandals with.

So he took the towel
in his hands again, and found
a clean spot, and ever so gently
pressed
against the wound, and as he heard
a hiss of pain, he prayed to his Father
for one more healing miracle.

And a tear fell from above him,
and landed on his hand,
right in the middle,
and it must have been a trick of the
light
but Judas thought it looked like blood
as he flexed his healed foot
and stared after his bent Savior
who had crept to the next
beloved disciple
with nothing to offer
but a basin and a towel
and two hands
and hope.
Sing: All I Need Is You FWS #2080 verse 3   sing many times through
   (replace I/My with We/our)

Luke 22:14-20
When the time came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles joined him. He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I tell you, I won’t eat it until it is fulfilled in God’s kingdom.” After taking a cup and giving thanks, he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. I tell you that from now on I won’t drink from the fruit of the vine until God’s kingdom has come.” [Lift up bread and break it] After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” [lift up cup] In the same way, he took the cup after the meal and said, “This cup is the new covenant by my blood, which is poured out for you.

Receive the gift of God’s grace poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As we remember Jesus’ final hours, take, eat, and drink. Remember him.

(As they serve each other around the tables continue reading Luke 22:21, 33-34)
Then Jesus said, “But look! My betrayer is with me; his hand is on this table.
Peter responded, “Lord, I’m ready to go with you, both to prison and to death!”
Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster won’t crow today before you have denied three times that you know me.”

Special Music: By My Side from Godspell
Let us pray together..

O God, tonight you have taught us how to love again.
Showing us the way by bending to your knees.
Showing us how much we are loved by giving your life for us.
We are not worthy of such love
so all we know to do is follow Christ on bended knee.
Guide us and strengthen us for the work of showing the world your love,
by bending to serve one another.
Lead us in our loving and strengthen us for the days ahead
as we witness again Christ’s willing execution on the cross.
This we pray in the name of the One who loved us to the end
and whose life shows us it all begins and ends and begins again with Love. AMEN

While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared, and the one called Judas, one of
the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said to him,
“Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” When those around him
recognized what was about to happen, they said, “Lord, should we fight with our
swords?” One of them struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear.
Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this!” He touched the slave’s ear and healed
him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the
elders who had come to get him, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest
me, as though I were a thief? Day after day I was with you in the temple, but you
didn’t arrest me. But this is your time, when darkness rules.”
Go now into the darkness.

Go to the darkness of the cross. Go to the darkness of the tomb.

Go now into the darkness and wait for the Lord.

*FWS = The Faith We Sing United Methodist Hymnal
Bible Readings from the Common English Bible translation

Introduction and prayers (in italics) written by Rev. Corey Turnpenny 2019, Whitney Point, NY.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA