

St. Sampson and St. Mary's Churches, Guernsey



Maundy Thursday 2020

Notes

We live in precarious times and we've never really been in a situation where Holy Week and Easter can't happen in Church.

However, this doesn't mean that we can't still pray and share in the different liturgies and ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter and live out the story of Jesus.

This Order of Service for Maundy Thursday is designed to give you some things to work with and to guide your devotions.

As a general rule, you will need a Bible.

You may also find it helpful to have a cross of some sort and a candle as a visual focus. You might like the challenge of making a cross out of whatever materials you have to hand.

If there is more than one of you taking part, you may wish to share in leading the services or reading the Bible Readings.

Those with internet access: may like to make use of *Youtube* for some music and hymns. Some suggestions are offered at various points in the service. You may not find that the top-billed video is the one of the best quality, however, so it may pay to do a bit of research before you start!

bible.oremus.org is a useful resource if you'd like a modern translation of the Bible (if you haven't already got one).

Above all, know and trust that we do not pray alone or in spiritual isolation. We join our prayers with Christians around the world and with the whole company of Heaven as we worship and adore God.

Maundy Thursday



You will need a Bible.

You may also wish to have a bowl of water and a candle or other moveable source of light lit as you begin.

If it's possible, think about whether there's another room or part of the house that you can pray in for part of this service.

It is traditional for this service to take place in the evening.

Collect

Let us pray that we may love one another
as Christ has loved us.

Keep a few moments of silence.

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end
and drank the cup prepared for him:
may we who share his table
watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful.

Amen.

First Reading

Read: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26.

Hymn

***A new commandment
I give unto you,
That you love one another
As I have loved you,
That you love one another
As I have loved you.***

By this shall all know
That you are My disciples,
If you have love one for another.
By this shall all know
That you are My disciples,
If you have love one for another.

True Love is patient,
Not arrogant, nor boastful.
Love bears all things, love is eternal.
True Love is patient,
Not arrogant, nor boastful.
Love bears all things, love is eternal.

Gospel Reading

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.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Read: John 13.1-17 & 31b-35

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

It was a strange night. An evening of celebration that everyone looks forward to; celebrating shared history and God's providence down the ages. And yet, it turns very quickly. A convivial meal is changed by the dark warning of what is going to happen in the coming hours and the preparations that the disciples need to make for life without Jesus. He gives them the gift of the Eucharist to remember him by each time they meet. Jesus models the true meaning of service. He tells his disciples to serve one another, to wash one another's feet and he takes off his outer robe and kneels down before them in humility and begins the profoundly moving action of washing Peter's feet. They are not to be so proud either to refuse to wash someone else's feet or to have one's own feet washed. At a time when many of us need help of one sort or another and we need to serve in different ways, what might this say to us today?

The evening gets worse however, with betrayal, agony of mind, body and spirit and the eventual arrest, imprisonment and trial. Jesus' isolation and separation from the people he called his friends reaches a new point. That isolation and sense of abandonment will get worse as the hours wear on.

Keep a few moments of silence to ponder the readings.

Hymn

From heav'n You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,*

*to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.

Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Prayers

Let us pray (*please add in your own petitions as you feel moved*).

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.

We thank you for all who are lovingly serving others above themselves
during this pandemic and we commit ourselves to follow his example of
love and service.

Lord, hear us and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.

We pray for the unity of your Church, particularly at this time when our
churches are closed and we cannot meet together

Lord, hear us and unite us.

On this night, he commanded his followers to love,
but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for the rejected and unloved, for all of those who feel isolated
and alone.

Lord, hear us and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded them that if the world hated them it hated him first.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord, hear us and give us your peace.

A few moments of silence are kept before the prayers conclude

Holy God,

holy and strong,

holy and immortal,

have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Vigil

Ordinarily at this point, the Church stripped of its adornments ready for Good Friday. Psalm 22 is usually read at this point.

If you're able to move to a different place, you may wish to move there now with the candle.

Youtube: The Taize chant, Stay with me, remain here with me.

Watch and pray, watch and pray, is particularly appropriate at this point.

Or you may wish simply to keep a period of silence as we watch and wait with Our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Vigil concludes with

The Gospel of the Watch

Read: Luke 22.31-62. Or, more simply,

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.' He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.'

Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace.

As you end your meditation, please ensure that the candle is extinguished.

Copyright material is included from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England and Common Worship: Times and Seasons. © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2006.