



Dead Palms and an Empty Church, Maundy Thursday



Milwaukee Metropolitan
Community Church

a Vibrant ~ Inclusive ~ Progressive Community of Faith

Rev. Tory Topjian and Mr. Brendan Fox, Musician

www.milmcc.org

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

and Rev. Dan Stark

www.uccmke.org

April 9, 2020

On this Maundy Thursday, we gather in spirit in answer to Jesus' call to love one another as God loves each of us. The word "maundy" comes from the Latin word for commandment (maundatum). The commandment comes from Jesus' words during the last supper: "I give you a new commandment; that you love one another..." On this night before Jesus was killed, he washed the disciples' feet to show us the way he calls us to love one another. This love calls us to be vulnerable enough to open the guarded places in our lives and risk healing and cleansing. May the "novum maundatum" – the new commandment, take root in our hearts and lead us to new life.

Words of Welcome

A Song for Today

Opening Litany

Come, people of God, to remember. Remember who you are. Remember the One who loves and calls you.

We come as God's own, to turn from all that would keep us from God's way of life, to be cleansed and to eat and drink at the table of Christ.

This is a time to reconcile divisions and release grudges, to open our hearts to each other with Christ's love.

As Jesus washed the feet of his friends, we will follow this new commandment to love and serve one another.

Old Testament

The Lamb

[Exodus 12:1-4 \(5-10\), 11-14](#)



The book of Exodus begins with a depiction of Israel's servitude in Egypt under Pharaoh and God's selection of Moses to move Israel out of that servitude. In this reading, the institution of the Passover meal centers Israel's preparation for leaving Egypt. At the sea, God defeats Pharaoh and his forces. Moses leads the people out of Egypt into a period of wilderness wandering.

"Lamb" Zurbarán,
Francisco, 1598-1664.

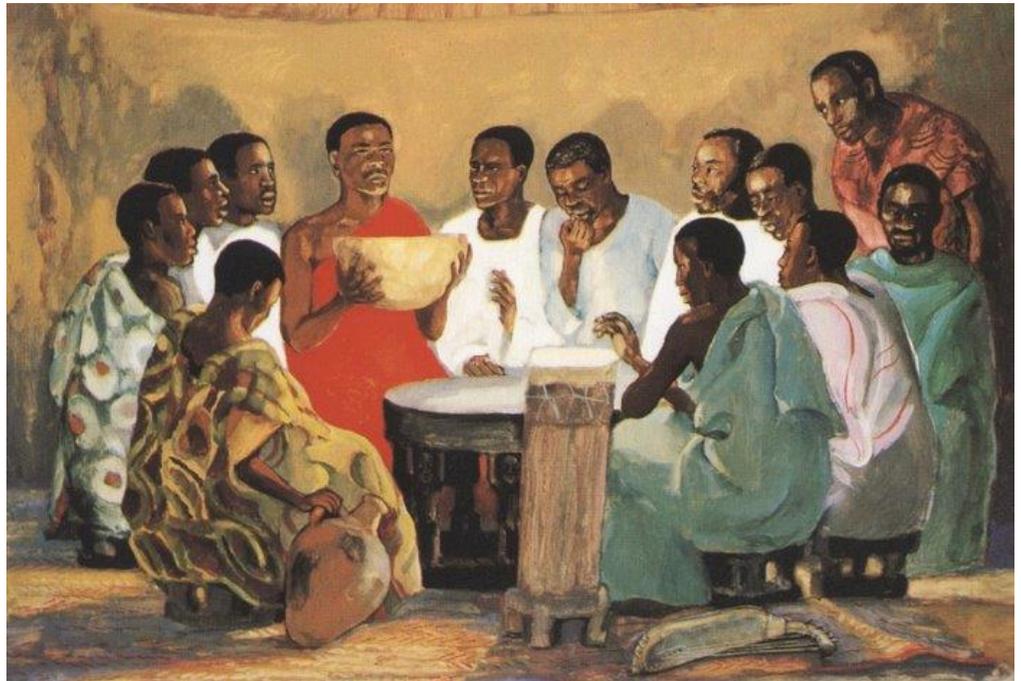
New Testament

In response to a letter from the Corinthian Church about worship practices and ethics, and a report from "Chloe's people" that the congregation founded by Paul has fallen to quarreling, Paul writes to the Corinthians, giving them direction about their dilemmas. In this reading, Paul gives directions with regards to sharing the Lord's Supper and respecting others.

"The Lord's Supper" Mafa, Jesus, 1973.

The Lord's Supper

[1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)



Gospel Lesson

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

[John 13:1-17, 31-35](#)



John's Gospel begins by announcing that God's Word, which brought all things into being, became flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus' ministry reveals God's power through signs and miracles. In this reading, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples to show them his love and to foreshadow his death. He speaks of his return to God and the coming of God's Holy Spirit. He prays for his disciples and those who will believe because of their witness.

"Christ Washing Feet of the Disciples"
Veronese, 1528-1588.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Dominion come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive 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 Dominion, and the power, and the glory forever!

Amen!

Prayer of Confession

Creator and Loving God, you kneel to wash our feet, yet we are reluctant for you to see all the places we have gone in our attempts to escape you.

You would bathe us in the warm, living waters of your love, even though we splash and play in the puddles of temptation.

We have received all the gifts you have to offer, yet we are tempted to think they are only for us, rather than sharing them.

Forgive us, Holy One, and have mercy on us. What can we give you for all your wonderful graciousness towards us?

As you have broken your heart for us, may we open ours in service to others. As you have given your life for us, may we offer ours to bring healing to the world.

As you have called us together around your Table, may we go forth to feed a world hungry, not only for food, but for that Spirit which brings peace and reconciliation.

This we pray as servants of Jesus Christ, who came to serve us in life, in death, in resurrection hope.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

On this holiest of nights, we have received the good news: God has come in Christ Jesus, to fill us with hope and peace, to bathe us in grace and mercy. In remembrance, we go forth: to bring hope where despair resides; to be servants to those who are broken; to love as selflessly as we are loved by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

When it was evening, Jesus took his place with his disciples, and while they were eating, he said,

“Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

“Who? Who will betray you? Is it I?” they all wondered. Surely not me. Tell us who, Jesus.

“The one who dips his hand into the dish with me.”

But that’s all of us. We’ve all shared this common meal.

The Story of the Lord’s Supper

The Prayer of Consecration

A Song for Sending

Blessing

After Jesus had washed their feet, he said: I have given you an example that you may do as I have done.

Peace is my last gift to you; my peace I now leave with you, peace that the world cannot give.

I give you a new calling: to love one another as I have loved you.

Peace is my last gift to you; my peace I now leave with you, peace that the world cannot give.

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: that you love one another.

So, go into the world to give yourself for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Go into the world and love in the name of the One who loved you until the end.

It all begins and ends and begins again with Love.

That IS the story.

Go in Peace.

Amen.

--

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.

Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

