

HOME WORSHIP FOR 1 APRIL 2021, MAUNDY THURSDAY

OPENING PRAYER

You call us to serve one another, O God, to serve joyfully, and freely.
You call us to serve one another, O God, to serve without counting the cost.
You call us to serve one another, O God, to serve when we would rather be served.
You call us to serve one another, O God, to serve as followers of Jesus, the servant.

Jesus took the bowl and towel and washed the dirt of the day away. We come before you, loving God, to make a fresh start.

Jesus took the bowl and towel and met the needs of his friends with compassion. We come before you, loving God, remembering the ties of family and friendship.

Jesus took the bowl and towel and shared himself with his disciples. We come before you, loving God, as part of a church community that accepts and shares.

Jesus put away the bowl and the towel and reminded his friends that they were called to serve. We come before you, O God, prepared to search out the focus and pattern of our Christian service. Amen.

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

You have called us to serve, O God, and we are questioning our service.

Have we served you in our words, attitudes, and actions: to friends, family and neighbours? Speak, O God, for your servants are listening.

Have we served you within the church community: its worship life, its teaching and care of others, its outreach into the neighbourhood? Speak, O God, for your servants are listening.

Have we served you in the wider world: in our willingness to be involved in social or political action; our readiness to stand with the poor, the sick, the challenged, and with those who are denied justice? Speak, O God, for your servants are listening.

(In a moment of silence allow God to show you when you haven't listened or acted as you were asked.)

You speak, O God, and we hear your voice.

It comes through trusted friends, through the challenge of newspapers and news programmes. It comes as we reflect on the Old and New Testaments. It comes through the messages we hear at church. It comes through meditation and prayer. As we respond to God's voice, pardon and peace are ours. Thanks be to God!
Amen.

MEMORY VERSE – try to memorise these verses from today's readings.

Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. (John 13: 4-5)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded today that you were broken for us, that you gladly endured sorrow, suffering and death for our sakes. So now we pray for all who are broken in body, mind or spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are in pain, racked by illness and disease or injured and physically disabled.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who mourn loved ones or who face death themselves, those tormented by fear and anxiety, and all who are overwhelmed by the complexities of daily life.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose faith has been battered by the harsh realities of this world – their confidence shaken, trust destroyed and love grown cold.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, who endured such turmoil of mind in Gethsemane, whose body was broken on the cross, who surrendered your spirit to the Father, reach out now in love and compassion to all in any such need, bringing the assurance of your presence, the comfort of your peace, and the joy of your love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, for we ask it in your name. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

It is through the use of all our gifts that we faithfully serve, O God.

We will serve you, with our praise and our prayer. We will serve you, as we serve those who are afraid. We will serve you, as we give hope to the suffering. We will serve you, as we stand beside the dejected. We will serve you, in our gifts to those whose names we do not know, but whose needs are great.

God will accept our gifts of time, talent and money, and we will rejoice! Amen.

We stand together as servants of The Servant. We will out for the needs of our friends and meet those needs.

We stand with those beyond our circle of friends! We will look out for the needs of our church communities and work with others.

We stand with those beyond our church communities! We will look out for the oppressed in our villages are the wider region, and work with other churches and faith groups to bring change.

We stand with those beyond our local area, we will look out for the struggling in our world and find ways to support them.

And people will know that we are servants of The Servant. Thanks be to God!
Amen.