

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28, 2024

Organ prelude: Drop, drop slow tears

Orlando Gibbons

Welcome & Introduction

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

For you have no delight in the sacrifice of animals;

if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, you will not despise.

(Psalm 51: 10,16,17)

***Hymn: An upper room did our Lord prepare**

No. 224

Lessons & Prayers

First Lesson: Genesis 1: 26-28

Pam McCarroll

26 Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have responsibility for the fish of the sea, and for the birds of the air, and for the cattle, and for all the wild animals of the earth, and for every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

27 So God created humankind in God's image,
in the image of God, God created them;
male and female God created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and care for it as it cares for you; and have responsibility for the fish of the sea and for the birds of the air and for every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

Unison Prayer: O God, we marvel at your creation, and are awed by the great responsibility you have given us in creating us. You have made us to care for life and all that lives, so that when life becomes fruitful and multiplies, it gives back to us and supports our own flourishing. May we find our way back to your creational vision for us, and may we rediscover how much our own survival depends on the care and repair of our relationship with mother earth. In this holy week and Easter season, may we learn from Christ, who stooped to wash the feet of those given to his care and responsibility, what this all means for us. Amen.

(The first candle is extinguished)

Second Lesson: Genesis 9: 8-13

Heather Hamby

8 Then God said to Noah and to his children with him, 9 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' 12 God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you,

for all future generations: 13I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Unison Prayer: Creator God, you have made a covenant with us, to be our God and to be steadfast in your commitment toward us despite our frequent betrayal of our calling to be your children. You keep reaching out to us with the generosity of nature, the people around us and the gift of life that is given us day after day and year after year. We are humbled by the magnanimity of your love revealed to us in these and so many other ways, and we give thanks. Amen.

(The second candle is extinguished)

Third Lesson: Genesis 22: 15-18

Jessica Wasserman

15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your child, your only child, 17I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall enter freely through the gate of your enemies, to bless, 18and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Unison Prayer: Liberating God, like Abraham your servant may we, too, entrust all that is ours to you and surrender our very being to you, trusting in your blessing to come upon us no matter the obstacles. May those who cause us trouble be open to peace because we refuse to make enemies of them, and may your peace and love rise up stronger than ever in and through us, bearing witness to what healing and reconciliation is yet possible; Amen.

(The third candle is extinguished)

Fourth Lesson: Exodus 14: 19-22

Phyllis Wilson

19 The angel of God who was going before the Hebrews moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. 20It came between the army of Egypt and the Hebrews. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. 22The Hebrews went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Unison Prayer: Empowering God, through your servant Moses you worked tremendous miracles of faith bearing fruit in action. He believed in you even against impossible odds. May we too be opened to the possibilities you can accomplish in our lives beyond the seeming impossibilities that weigh heavy upon us. May faith in what you can do become active in and through us; Amen.

(The fourth candle is extinguished)

Fifth Lesson: Isaiah 55: 1-3a, 6-7

Kin Chan

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

6 Seek God while God may be found,
call upon the Lord while the Holy One is near;

7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that the Lord may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon.

Unison Prayer: Nourishing God, we thank you for the abundance of food and drink that surrounds us. Especially we thank you this night for bread and wine, nourishment for our bodies and for our souls. Amen.

(The fifth candle is extinguished)

Sixth Lesson: Ezekiel 36: 24-28

Lateh Mbelem

24I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. 25I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all that contaminates you, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. 28Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Unison Prayer: Wondrous God, cleanse us and renew us. Break through our hardness of heart which we allow to form in us in order to protect us from life. Give us hearts of flesh and blood so that we can feel life in all its fullness: its pain, which can make us more compassionate, and beyond pain to that mysterious joy which only you can give, a joy that centers and enlivens us beyond anything this world can do to us. Amen.

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

Seventh Lesson: John 13: 1-17, 34-35

Rev. Rebecca

13Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5Then 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. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'

7 Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 8 Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' 9 Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' 10 Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?' 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Unison Prayer: Lord Jesus, we cannot understand it. The night before your passion when you would be abandoned by all, you took a towel and water and washed the feet of your disciples. Such humility, such love, is too wonderful for us to digest. Yet we need you more than anything we have ever needed. May the bread we eat and the cup we drink become in us your very life rising anew, and may we be transformed. Amen.

(The seventh candle is extinguished)

Silent Prayer

***Hymn: A new commandment**

No. 225

Holy Communion (Insert)

***Hymn: Great God, your love has called us here**

No. 226

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ postlude: Sarabande

G. F. Handel