

## **Maundy Thursday Prayer Journey** - by Rev. Rick Pryce and Rev. Kimber McNabb

*Consider this prayer journey to be like the Stations of the Cross. Each station is created for participants to enter the story and events of Maundy Thursday.*

*Each section of the Prayer Journey contains a ritual. The rituals are the traditional rituals of Maundy Thursday expressed in new forms to help us journey through COVID. Items needed for the rituals are described in the red rubrics.*

*Leadership for each section may be shared. If used in the home, the participants might consider moving to a different room for each section of the story. If done in a sanctuary, the leader might consider moving to different locations for each section, or might arrange to have different individuals/families/groups in the congregation read from their seats.*

L - Leader

R - Reader

C - Congregation

### **Opening Litany**

*Ideal room for this ritual: living/family room*

L - We are now going to hear the story of this holy night,

C - The story of love, and betrayal, and service.

L - We are here to remember the welcome of Jesus,

C - As he loved his friends to the end.

L - We are here to remember the heartache of Jesus,

C - As he experienced treachery among his closest companions.

L - We are here to remember the humility of Jesus,

C - As he accepted the role of a servant.

L - We are to remember, to experience, and to reflect.

C - May God guide us on our journey, this night and always.

### **Loving to the End**

*Ideal room for this ritual: entrance, vestibule, mudroom, or porch/back deck*

L - Jesus gives us a new commandment,

C - That we love as we have been loved.

R - Now 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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

*Pause for silent reflection*

L - Let us pray. Gracious and loving God, in the face of our faithlessness, Jesus remains faithful; in the reality of our halfheartedness, Jesus remains constant. Turn us again to you, that our self-seeking ways may give way to your perpetual love; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

*A can of carbonated water or a spray bottle with water in it*

R – Tonight is different. Pandemic has and is changing us. We gather as faithful disciples – a community spread from home to home- our hearts focused to pray with Jesus. Tonight we acknowledge that loving to the end means wearing masks, washing our hands, distancing, and not gathering in the ways we once did.

- On this night Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. Our feet, our hands – especially our hands - are clean. It is the air we breathe that holds sickness and needs purifying.
- L – Loving to the end, we take water and wash the air.  
*Shake cans of carbonated water; open and spray the air. Or spray water from the water spray bottles.*
- L – Loving to the end – we love as we have been loved. Being mindful of the air we breathe, we give thanks for each breath; take heed to protect ourselves and our neighbours; and pray for the breath of God to breathe new life.

## **The Place of a Slave**

*Ideal room for this ritual: Kitchen*

- L - Jesus gives us a new commandment,  
 C - That we love as we have been loved.
- R - During supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 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.
- Pause for silent reflection*
- L - Let us pray. Gracious and loving God, in humility Jesus took the role of the lowest slave, that his friends might know your love. Open us to all that he brings, that we may embrace the call to follow Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C - Amen.

*Items for baking: either the altar bread below, or your own 'bread' recipe*

- R – Tonight is different. Pandemic has and is changing us. This is a time we would gather and eat with each other. Tonight we acknowledge that 'the place of a slave' means our tasks in daily living and working have changed because of circumstance. There is a heightened awareness for the hungry, the unemployed, the precariously housed, the disenfranchised, the long-term care resident, the sick and dying.
- L – Taking the place of a slave, we gather ingredients to make bread, mix them together, and bake bread.  
*Make bread (if meeting in church could have it pre made. Encourage people to make their own at home)*

### **Altar Bread ----- Paul & Kathy Bosch**

2 1/2 Cups Whole Wheat Flour

1 Cup White Flour

3 Tablespoons Honey

2 Tablespoons Butter or Oil

1 1/2 Cups Milk

Sift Flour together

Mix Honey, Butter/Oil and Milk together

Warm and stir over low heat until it becomes like a syrup

Add liquid to dry mixture

Knead until it becomes dough (don't over knead)

Divide into 6-8 portions

Round into balls

Press into flat circles on greased baking sheet

Score into breakable pieces for Communion  
(A 6" diameter circle should serve 40-48 people)  
Bake at 425° F for 10-12 Minutes (Don't over bake)  
May freeze until needed

L – The place of a slave – we love as we have been loved. Being mindful that we have skills and ingredients to feed need and to warm hearts, we take action to bake bread that can heal the world.

### **In Spite of Resistance**

*Ideal room for this ritual: family or rec room*

L - Jesus gives us a new commandment,

C - That we love as we have been loved.

R - [Jesus] came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' 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.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

*Pause for silent reflection*

L - Let us pray. Gracious and loving God, you forgive us our stubbornness pride, and our intentional lack of understanding. As we confront our failures, give us faith to receive the gifts you give, in the way that they are given; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

R – Tonight is different. Pandemic has and is changing us. For months, relationships have been distanced with those outside. Isolation and lockdown are common practices. At home relationships are tested as we play, work, do school, and constantly live in each other's space. Mental health, domestic violence, addiction, and anxiety are lived experience.

L – In spite of our own resistance, we take a moment to acknowledge the brokenness of our relationships, especially with those we love.

*One at a time, look your housemates in the eye and say, "I forgive you all your sins." If you live alone look into a mirror and say the phrase to your reflection. If at church, turn to the someone closest to you.*

L – In spite of resistance – we love as we have been loved. Being mindful that relationships take dedication and perseverance, we give thanks for the people in our lives, and ask for patience and forgiving hearts.

### **Setting an Example**

*Ideal room for this ritual: bathroom*

L - Jesus gives us a new commandment,

C - That we love as we have been loved.

R - 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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed

your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'

*Pause for silent reflection*

L - Let us pray. Gracious and loving God, with his words, with his actions, with his very life, Jesus demonstrated your compassionate love. Free our hearts and our hands to serve the people of this world and your whole creation; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

### *Hand cream*

R – Tonight is different. Pandemic has and is changing us. What were normal operating procedures and status quo have been turned upside down. Tonight we acknowledge that setting an example requires consistent action, letting go of conspiracy theories, standing against tyranny, changing systems, getting vaccinated, and demonstrating patience and understanding.

L – Setting an example – we anoint our hands, healing the scars, cracks, and dryness that have come through this pandemic journey.

*Take hand cream and anoint your hands (rub hand cream into them). If at church, perhaps ask a local hotel for room lotions, or a Mary Kay rep for individual samples.*

L- Setting an example – we love as we have been loved. Being mindful of God's love and grace, our eyes open to compassionate love and action. With anointed hands our spirits are renewed, let us share this healing with all of creation.

### **Glory in Betrayal**

*Ideal room for this ritual: Living Room*

L - Jesus gives us a new commandment,

C - That we love as we have been loved.

R - When [Judas had left the gathering], Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the [Jewish leaders] so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come."

*Pause for silent reflection*

L - Let us pray. Gracious and loving God, in a world which worships success, wealth and power, Jesus redefines glory as humility, sacrificial service and self-giving love. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may live into the true glory which is embodied by Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

R – Tonight is different. Pandemic has and is changing us. What was once important has passed away, adaptation and creativity are in abundance; resurrection is just around the corner. Tonight we acknowledge that we were living beyond our means (taking too much), hurting the environment, and trying to have it all.

L – Glory in betrayal – we take down the adornments of our lives displaced in this space. We will spend time looking at an empty slate, from where we can begin again.

*Take down paintings/ pictures on the walls. Put away items on mantels or shelves.  
If at church, strip the altar and worship space.*

L – Glory in betrayal – we love as we have been loved. Being mindful that we are called to live life with humility, sacrificial service and self-giving love, we will not return to status quo when pandemic abates, but, rather, set priorities for living in the reign of God.

### **A New Commandment**

*Ideal room for this ritual: around the dining room table*

L - Jesus gives us a new commandment,

C - That we love as we have been loved.

R - [Jesus continued,] ‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

*Pause for silent reflection*

L - Let us pray. Gracious and loving God, Jesus summarizes everything he is about, and everything we are to be about, in the command to love. Instill in each of us the desire and the willingness to live this new commandment, that the whole creation may know your care; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

### ***Items to make tags to go on bread to be delivered to neighbours***

R – Tonight is different. Pandemic has and is changing us. It is time for us to depart.

When in church we left in dim light, the altar being bare, the haunting notes of chanted Psalm clinging to our hearts, we went in silence. Tonight we acknowledge, a shift from a barren place and focus on death, to a new commandment. In places of death and grief we will share Jesus’ story. Tonight the story continues through a ritual of sharing bread with our neighbours.

L – A new commandment – we write love notes, hope notes, faith notes, for our friends and neighbours.

*Make gift tags to put on the bread you made. Write a note of hope, encouragement, thinking of you, and/or love for people you will give bread to. When the bread is cool, wrap it for delivery, and take it to neighbours.*

L – A new commandment – we love as we have been loved. Being mindful that kindness, hope, and love are indispensable and grow with use - through being washed in Jesus’ story of the last night with the disciples - may our hearts burn with the passion that we are commissioned to love one another, and resurrect kindness, hope, and love in abundance.

### **Dismissal**

L - Think on these things. Keep them close to your heart until resurrection comes.

Journey safely through this night of grief and walk humbly through death. You are not alone.

C - Thanks be to God.