

Eucharist of Maundy Thursday

9th April 2020



Service livestreamed from
The Vicarage, Wylam
at

www.facebook.com/StOswinStMary/

This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is not possible to gather together in church to celebrate the Holy Week services.

The tent in which this service will be celebrated is a 6m bell tent provided to this Benefice by the Joint Diocesan Board of Education. The intended purpose for this was so as a Benefice we can try to expand God's Tent; a Fresh Expression of church first conceived by the Rev'd Benjamin Carter, Vicar of Haydon Bridge.

In a God's Tent 'pitching' we pitch the tent in rural places with a friendly landowner. There we participate together in a brief act of worship, an outdoor activity linked to whatever environment the tent is in, and retreat again to the tent to reflect together, close with worship and share hot chocolate. Through this we hope to enter more deeply into an understanding of the nature of God and his loving purposes for us and his creation.

Tents have a special resonance at various points of the biblical narrative. When the people of Israel flee from slavery in Egypt and wander for 40 years in the wilderness God commands that a tent be created as a holy place that would travel with them. This tent is called both the Tabernacle and also 'The Tent of Meeting.'

At this time it is not possible for us to worship in churches made of stone. We are in a wilderness place, looking forward to a promised time when this pandemic has abated and we can meet together again. Here in our wilderness there are parallels with the People of Israel wandering in theirs. Both peoples look forward to better future time. Since our wilderness prevents us from worshipping in church buildings we worship in a tent. Irrespective of where we worship, God is with us.

The opening responses in tonight's worship are taken from the liturgy used at a God's Tent pitching. Benjamin Carter's book outlining the theology and practicalities of being church through God's Tent is published this month. If you are interested in exploring God's Tent further do consider acquiring a copy.

¶ The Gathering

When God led his people
through the wilderness to the promised land...

God pitched his tent amongst us

When God made David a great King...

God pitched his tent amongst us

When God came to be with us in Jesus...

God pitched his tent amongst us

And today, here at Wylam and through the technology of live
streaming...

God pitches his tent amongst us.

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you
and also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’

‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.’

‘Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,
and ask him to cleanse us.

Silence is kept.

Have mercy on us, O God,
in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Against you only have we sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the Father forgive you
by the death of his Son
and strengthen you
to live in the power of the Spirit
all your days.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

(Tune: Cwn Rhondda, ‘Guide me O thou great redeemer’)

**Glory be to God in heaven
songs of joy and peace we bring,
thankful hearts and voices raising
to creation’s Lord we sing
Lord, we thank you
Lord, we bless you,
glory be to God our King
glory be to God our King**

**Lamb of God, who on your shoulders
bore the load of this world's sin,
only Son of God the Father,
you have bought us peace within:
Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
now your glorious reign begin
now your glorious reign begin**

The Collect

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

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
may he nourish us by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end:

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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.

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

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Washing of Hands

At the Last Supper our Lord washed the feet of the disciples. This was an act demonstrating service and love which we are called to imitate. Through the pandemic which we are currently experiencing hand washing has taken on a new importance and significance. It has been revealed to us even more clearly that we wash our hands as an act of love and service to others.

In this service you are encouraged to have a bowl of warm water, soap and a towel with you. We wash our own hands and the hands of those gathered with us in our households. As we wash each others hands we remember and pray for those who have been separated from human touch and intimacy at this time. We pray for those parts of the world without easy access to clean water and soap. We pray for those who are sick, those who care for them and for all people making sacrifices in their lives for the common good.

In ritually washing our hands in this way we are consciously joining in with our Lord and choosing to follow his way of service and love. Hopefully for each of us in the days ahead the act of washing hands can become a conscious moment where we remember that we are called to love and service through recognising and receiving the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Servant King.

When all have washed their hands we pray together:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father through Christ the saviour of the world.

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

Lord, hear us
and unite us.

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his disciples' message.
We pray for the mission of your Church.

Lord, hear us
and renew our zeal.

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love,
but suffered rejection himself.
We pray for the rejected and unloved.

Lord, hear us
and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded his disciples
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.

On this night, he accepted the cup of death
and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.
We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear us
and welcome all your children into paradise.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

At the eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord.
We know that it was not only our ancestors,
but we who were redeemed
and brought forth from bondage to freedom,
from mourning to feasting.
We know that as he was with them in the upper room
so our Lord is here with us now.

**Until the kingdom of God comes
let us celebrate this feast.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you bring forth bread from the earth.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you create the fruit of the vine.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because, having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end;
and on the night before he suffered,
sitting at table with his disciples,
he instituted these holy mysteries,

that we, redeemed by his death
and restored to life by his resurrection,
might be partakers of his divine nature.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

The Sanctus

(Tune: Slane, 'Be thou my vision')

**Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessed, most blessed, all blessed is he
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free:
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.

Breaking of the Bread

(Tune: Repton, 'Dear Lord and Father')

**O Lamb of God,
you cleanse our hearts
And take our sin away,
O Lamb of God, your grace impart,
bid every guilty fear depart
have mercy Lord, we pray
have mercy Lord, we pray**

**O Lamb of God, our living bread,
and joy's free flowing wine,
our humble servant, yet our Head
by your own life our souls are fed,
in holy Word and Sign,
in holy Word and Sign.**

**O Lamb of God, our lives restore,
our guilty souls release.
Into our lives your Spirit pour,
and let us live for evermore
in perfect heav'nly peace
in perfect heav'nly peace**

Act of Spiritual Communion

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is not possible for us to physically gather and receive communion together. Spend time looking at the Holy Sacrament in awe and wonder that God became human in Jesus and is present with us in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. Spiritual Communion is the conscious willing and desire to be in sacramental relationship with our Lord when receiving the bread and wine of the Eucharist is not possible.

You may wish to pray the following prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries
of your body and blood
that we may know within ourselves
and show forth in our lives
the fruit of your redemption,
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

¶ The Conclusion

The Stripping of the Sanctuary

Everything is removed from the tent. During the stripping these verses from Lamentations are read.

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate, her priests groan;
her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.
Her children have gone away, captives before the foe.
Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

From on high he sent fire; it went deep into my bones;
he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back;
he has left me stunned, faint all day long.
For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage;
my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

All who pass along the way clap their hands at you;
they hiss and wag their heads at daughter Jerusalem;
‘Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty,
the joy of all the earth?’
The thought of my affliction and homelessness is wormwood and gall.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,
‘therefore I will hope in him.’
The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,
to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,
to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),
to give one’s cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.
For the Lord will not reject for ever.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The Dismissal

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.

The ministers and people depart.