

Church of Christ Congregational
Worshipping at Home
March 29, 2020

Consider: Jesus' words at the Last Supper were shocking to those in attendance. His words can seem familiar, even comforting to us because we hear these words every time we have communion,. But at the moment of their utterance, they were anything but "usual." This week our scripture puts us at the scene of that last supper. Can we sit with this long enough to get a grasp of the shock that would have rippled through Jesus' friends? Partaking of body and blood? Not kosher! A "Lord" washing feet like a servant? Unbelievable! Breaking bread with the enemy? What?! But Jesus knew his time was up. And it was time for the disciples to get the message, even if it came in a shocking way: love one another as I have loved you—by serving, forgiving, freeing, communing—becoming one with—God.

Confess: Sometimes we just aren't paying attention. We can keep our heads in the sand when we really need to attend to difficult situations, or the needs of your people. Forgive us, O God. Guard us from distancing ourselves, and help us to care for what's right in front of us. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Sing or Listen: [Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love](#)

Be Assured: Know this-Our lives contain continual opportunities to be in humble service to friends and strangers. You are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved by a god who wants you to live fully. Thanks be to God!

Read God's Word:

John 13: 3-16

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 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. 6 He 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.

Luke 4: 16-21

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Watch: [Entering the Passion of Jesus: Week 5](#)

Think or Discuss: In her book about the Passion, Amy-Jill Levine says this about Jesus' act of washing the disciples feet: "To be a servant leader, to take on the role of a slave, also means to take on the role of freeing others—not only from sin but also from bondage." Washing others' feet may seem shocking to us, but more out of a disdain for feet rather than the real reason it was shocking to those first disciples. Jesus' stature as the Master Teacher and honored guest made him first in line to *be served*—certainly not to *be the servant*. But if the disciples had been paying attention, they would have heard Jesus' own proclamation of his call—to free those held captive, especially the least among society. In taking the place of a slave, he shows forth the fulfillment of this role, one that will be further fulfilled in dying as a common criminal. Who do we need to free? From what? From what do we need to be freed?

The bread and cup, like the perfume last week, help us to remember. The taste, texture, and smell help us to connect to the story of our Christian faith. How do items like bread and juice proclaim the Gospel? (the Good News)

Do: Draw, journal, or simply reflect on a communion celebration that you were a part of. What stands out to you? What will you notice next time that you didn't notice before?

A Time of Prayer and Reflection

We remember today all those whose lives were turned inside-out by their encounter with Jesus, especially those at the Last Supper. We remember today those people who give their time and effort to give clean shelter, food, and clothing to those whose wellbeing has been compromised by homelessness and tragedy and those who work to end human trafficking. What can we do to help in these ways? Let us remember and lift up those people in our lives that need our advocacy, presence and prayers.

Pray: Use this time to pray, silently, at first, and then for others who need your prayers. Finally, pray the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sing or Listen: [The Table \(Lyrics & Chords\)](#)

*OUR COMMON COMMISSION

Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no person evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all people, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bless and Be Blessed: May the God of Peace and the Peace of God be with you always.