

# *St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy*

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*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, Maundy Thursday 7pm*

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*The service for Maundy Thursday is adapted from experimental liturgies for these occasions which have been produced by the Scottish Episcopal Church and approved for use by The College of Bishops.*

Gathering

*Welcome:* Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*Sentence:* We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
in whom is our resurrection, our salvation and our life.

*Hymn:* Once, only once and once for all

*Collect for Purity:*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Gloria:*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
(with God the Son, Jesus Christ,  
and God the Holy Spirit,)  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Collect:* God our Father,  
as you invite us to share in the supper that your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes: inspire us by his service, and unite us in his love;  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

*First Reading:* Exodus 12. 1–14

*Second Reading:* 1 Corinthians 11. 23–26

*Hymn:* Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us

*Gospel:* John 13. 1–17, 31b–35

At the end of the reading  
Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious gospel.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

*Homily:* We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored,  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride,  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

This is a hymn written in the 1960s by a Catholic priest, Peter Scholtes, inspired by today's Gospel: "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."

Today is Thursday in Holy Week, often called Maundy Thursday. Maundy is connected to the word "mandate," a command. Jesus gives us a new commandment.

As written in the above gospel text, Jesus commanded his disciples to love each other. He did not only command them through words but also through example, by getting into action. The action was not by force, not by beating them up; he set the example himself. As we pray in the collect, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of his body and blood.

Saint Paul writes to the people in Corinth what he had received and would pass to others: "The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

Does it sound familiar? Whenever we have Eucharistic service, we hear this institution of the Eucharist: Take. Bless. Break. Give. Forgive. Remember. These are the actions of Holy Communion, mentioned in the synoptic gospels and testified to by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians.

Jesus takes up some very basic things that are used every day, and in turn, gives us life and strength. The bread: he blesses the God-given thing, breaks it open, then he gives it to the people. Think about this: for the bread to be shared, it has to be broken. For Jesus to be shared, he has to be broken. He loves us; he is willing to be broken so he can share himself with us, so he would be in communion with us and we would be in communion with each other.

Our Lord Jesus' willingness to share himself is an act to redeem God's people. He uses the table wine as a metaphor of his blood, tells us that he uses his own blood to cleanse us from our sins, and gives us life by instilling his blood in us.

Before our Lord is betrayed and handed over to the Roman authorities, he hands himself over to his disciples – and to us.

Jesus uses some outward and visible signs – in this case, our daily basic sustenance – to remind us, to enter into us, and to be with us. That is how he loves us. Therefore, whenever we eat this bread and drink this wine, we do so remembering Jesus our Christ. We do it in remembrance of our Lord's love for us, his willingness to hand over his body and blood, his willingness to die on the cross. However, this remembrance is not just for us to keep within ourselves; that remembrance is to be proclaimed so that it will be remembered.

Jesus has demonstrated how he loves us. Just in case the disciples do not get it, he further demonstrates by washing his disciples' feet. To wash their feet, he has to kneel down in front of them. He shows his willingness to do something that appears humbling. Peter has not grasped the meaning and declines the washing at first. He considers himself humble and unworthy to have his teacher wash his feet.

Let us think deeper. If we think that we are lowly and unworthy to be served, haven't we already divided people into different classes, including those that are unworthy to be served – even if that's us? If we feel embarrassed to have our feet washed or to be served, do we also elevate some people to a point where they are too good to serve others? This is not how we love each other. No person is higher or lower on the list to be served or loved.

In a little while, Jesus will be arrested. He will be stripped of his clothes, stripped of his dignity, and even stripped of his life. Are the dignity and life of our Lord Jesus less important than our own dignity and life? Once again, his washing of feet and suffering are breaking through this barrier to show the love that Jesus has for us. He wants us to love each other as he loves us.

Therefore, the liturgy of Maundy Thursday is to remind us again of the love our Lord has for us. The institution of the sacrament of his body and blood. The forgiveness of sins. The foot washing. The stripping of the altar. All ask us to remember Jesus' great love for us, and our response must be to love each other.

When we receive the Eucharist, therefore, we should remember that Jesus loves us, even to the end. Before he is betrayed, before he is handed over to death, he hands himself to us. He takes up the bread and wine and blesses them to be the Holy Sacrament, his body and blood, our bread of heaven and cup of salvation. By taking this bread and cup, we become one body and one spirit. Whenever we take them, we take them knowing that Christ died for us, and we feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving, loving each other.

With Jesus' wondrous love for us, how can we not love Jesus back? To love him back, we, his disciples, are to follow his commandment to show the world we are his disciples. That is our discipleship.

Let us not only sing, "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love," but also act by being one in the Spirit and one in the Lord, by working with each other side by side, and by guarding each person's dignity and saving each person's pride.

Amen.

### *The Maundy An Act of Humility, Repentance, and Renewal*

Dear friends in Christ, the Lord Jesus suffered for us, leaving us an example that we might follow in his steps. In his incarnation he took our human flesh and lived among us for a time. He came not to be served but to serve, and to give up his life for us. Christ died for us, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, in whose image we have been created.

In Baptism we have died in the flesh and been made alive in the Spirit. We have been buried with Christ that we might share in his resurrection.

As we celebrate the mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection, let us come before God in penitence, praying that God's image in us may be restored, and that we may be renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I ask you, therefore:

Do you place your faith in God, who created the world, and in whose image you are made?  
**We do**

Do you place your hope in Jesus Christ, who died for you and was raised from the dead?  
**We do.**

Do you place your trust in God's Holy Spirit, who empowers and directs your life in accordance with God's will? **We do.**

Do you repent of the sin which has separated you from God, and marred God's image in you?  
**We repent.**

Do you accept again the cleansing from the power of sin, which you first received in your Baptism? **We do.**

Will you model your life on the example of your Lord, Jesus Christ? **With the help of God, we will.**

Will you take up your cross, and follow Christ? **With the help of God, we will.**

Will you seek to serve God and God's people, and not only to be served? **We will, after the example of Christ.**

Will you recognise in others the image of God in which you and they are made? **We will, after the example of Christ.**

Will you be faithful in worship, in reading holy Scripture, and in prayer? **We will, by the grace of God's Holy Spirit.**

Will you use your gifts in the service of Christ's Body, the Church? **We will, by the grace of God's Holy Spirit.**

*Prayer:*

We come together here  
in the name of Jesus  
who in the night that he was betrayed  
took water and a towel  
knelt at the feet of his friends  
and washed their feet  
asking that his friends remember him  
and live by his example.

Spirit of God, be with us  
as we offer our hands  
in a gesture of loving remembrance.  
Help us to bring in your kingdom  
by acts of love.  
In the name of one  
who lived and laughed  
and loved and wept  
and died and rose again  
that we might know the way of living in your love.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ taught us  
that what we do for others we do also for him:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as he was the servant of all,  
who gave up his life and died for us;  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

*Intercessions: Composed by a member of the Intercessors Group*

Remembering that in the past, God has always been active in seeking the salvation of his people, let us bring to Him now our prayers for ourselves and for others.

Heavenly Father, you have always been active in seeking the salvation of your people. Hear our prayers today and use them and us in your saving work, both in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we pray in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Lord, we thank you for the fellowship we share with your people throughout the world as we remember the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples. Let your church follow his example of love and service so that his message might reach those around us.

We pray for those who today, like your people in Egypt long ago, are oppressed and treated unjustly by those in power and who abuse their authority. We pray that arrogance and cruelty may give way to humility and a kindness that seeks not to crush but to serve and nurture the weak and vulnerable.

Lord, we pray for all who are suffering today or carrying the burdens of sickness, grief, anxiety or guilt. We pray for all patients in hospitals, all elderly people in care homes and all those living in isolation at home. We pray that you will guide them towards freedom, wholeness and faith in You as a loving God who seeks to serve us and save us.

Lord Jesus, in the garden you struggled with accepting the sacrificial path. Sustain us in our struggles where the way is hard or beyond what we feel we can bear. Send your Spirit to strengthen our resolve to do your will, to drink the cup that you drink and to find in our cross the way of life and peace.

We ask you to accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

*Peace:* A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.  
(John 13. 34)  
We meet in Christ's name: Let us share his peace.

*Hymn:* When I survey the wondrous cross

*Communion  
Prayer:*

**God of infinite mercy. We thank we for Jesus our Saviour who feeds his people and gives them eternal life. Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine we thank we that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the risen and ascended life of our Saviour. Amen. (This prayer is said during the online Provincial service).**

*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 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.**

*Hymn:* There is a green hill far away

*Sentence:* Jesus said, 'I am the vine, and you are the branches. They who abide in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.' (John 15. 5)

*Prayer:* Almighty God, source of all love,  
whose only-begotten son, on the night of his betrayal,  
gave his disciples a new commandment,  
to love one another as he loved them:  
write this commandment in our hearts;

and give us the will to serve others  
as he was the servant of all,  
who gave his life and died for us,  
yet is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

*The Watch*

Now is the Son of Man glorified. Watch and pray.

Gospel of the Watch, Luke 22. 31–62

*(If you wish, please light a candle and sit for a while remembering the events of Maundy Thursday. Please close your connection and leave in silence after you have reflected)*