

**New St. James Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario**  
**Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020**  
**Rev. Mark McLennan**

**We Approach God**

**Call to Worship**

LEADER: This is the day

**ALL: when Christ gathered with his disciples in an upper room.**

LEADER: This is the day

**ALL: when Christ shared a meal as a sign of his great love.**

LEADER: This is the day

**ALL: when Christ took a towel, washed the disciples' feet and showed us how to serve others.**

LEADER: This is the day

**ALL: that the Lord has made.**

**Opening Prayer – (in unison)**

Holy and mysterious God, as we gather around this table and prepare to receive the story of the Last Supper, focus our attention. Gather us in worship with ears prepared to hear, minds prepared to learn, hands prepared to receive, and hearts prepared to love, even to the point of breaking. Draw us closer to Christ to receive his loving kindness. Draw us closer to you and to one another in the name of Jesus, our Servant Lord. Amen.

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

READING: Matthew 26:17-25 – The Passover with His Disciples

HYMN (words to hymn 233)

Were you there when he gathered with his friends? (x2)

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he gathered with his friends?

(silence)

READING: Matthew 26:26-30 – The Lord's Supper

HYMN (words to hymn 233)

Were you there when he gave them bread and wine? (x2)

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?

(silence)

**INVITATION**

LEADER: We gather together around this table, spread to remember the love, care and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

**PRAYER: (in unison)**

Creator of heaven and earth, you spoke and order emerged from chaos, creation shaped the formless void, and light broke into the darkness. You formed us in your image and called us to be your people. You spoke words of truth and law to shape us into a community. Through the prophets, you called us

to do justice and live in peace. In the fullness of time, your word became flesh and lived among us. In Jesus, we saw your full glory. He shared our human nature; he lived and died as one of us. He taught us to follow his way; he healed the sick, ate and drank with outcasts, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom.

We give you thanks for Christ, the gift of your love and grace. Pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they become the body and blood of Christ for us. Nourished by them, may we become the body of Christ in the world. Amen.

### **INSTITUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

LEADER: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given 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 of it, in remembrance of me."

### SHARING THE BREAD AND THE WINE

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (in unison)**

Holy God, on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment on our hearts and strengthen us in service, in unity and in love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

READING: John 13:1-8) – Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples

HYMN (words to hymn 233)

Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet? (x2)

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?

(silence)

#### **THE WASHING**

LEADER: On the night of his arrest, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment and set an example for them by washing their feet. In this act of service, he reminded them to serve one another. Therefore, come forward to be washed and to wash one another, to be served and to serve each another. Remember your baptism, and your calling to follow Christ's example.

READING: Matthew 26:36-45 – In Gethsemane

HYMN (words to hymn 233)

Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God? (x2)

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?

(silence)

READING: Matthew 26:47-56 – The Betrayal and Arrest

HYMN (words to hymn 233)

Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran? (x2)  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?

(silence)

**Benediction**

At the conclusion of the service, the congregation leaves in silence.

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**A THOUGHT FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Back in the '90's, I received the great blessing of hearing an address by Father Henri Nouwen, visiting at St. Frances Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

I have never forgotten a comparison he drew that day.

He compared Christians, to the Lord's Supper.

Just as Jesus instituted the Sacrament

- He took the bread, gave thanks, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends.

In the same way, Nouwen said, a Christian is:

TAKEN – in the Church we say “called” - chosen, led, guided by God to use our gifts for works of blessing, mission, and ministry.

GIVING THANKS – where to start?

BLESSED – Is there any doubt that we are – especially in these challenging times?

BROKEN – each of us have experienced some form of brokenness – grief, sadness, hurt, anger, frustration, worry - so many other human situations and challenges.

GIVEN - put on this earth, in this place, at this time, to be God's eyes, ears, hands, and voice.

It started at that table, in that upper room, all those years ago.

Thank you, Father Nouwen.

IN THE NAME OF THE CREATOR, SAVIOUR, AND HOLY SPIRIT... AMEN