



Maundy Thursday
March 29, 2018

Invitation to Worship

What is this night?

It is a night of *love* —

for on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment:
to love each other as he loved them.

It is a night of *communion* —

for on this night Jesus gave not only a commandment,
but also a sign: bread and wine broken and poured,
to remember him.

It is a night of loving *service* —

for on this night Jesus gave us not only a commandment,
not only a sign,
but also an example: on his knees with basin and towel,
washing feet.

It is also a night of *betrayal* —

for on this night a man Jesus loved
sold him for money,
and brought soldiers to seize and bind him
as he prayed.

This night is joyous, fierce, tender, terrible.

We begin in light, with memories and stories, friends and feasting.

We end in shadows, with a queasy fright.

We begin as the friends of Jesus did long ago: together, as one.

We end as they did: scattered in the dark.

We begin as they did: singing of love and deliverance.

We end as they did: without a single sound.

Friends, be at peace on this holy night.

Enter it with open hearts.

Invocation

Hymn

An Upper Room

130

An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their risen Friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by this cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete:
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace.
He loves beyond the uttermost:
in every room in our Father's house
Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

God, we receive the love of Christ.
We receive his great example,
We receive the power and work he demonstrated by your spirit;
And we receive the commands he has given.

This is Christ's command:
That we love one another
Just as Christ loved his disciples and others he met.
As Christ has done so must we do.

This is Christ's example:
Washing the feet of his friends;
Humbly doing the work of a servant
Becoming vulnerable, laying down his life.

This is Christ's legacy
Which we receive as the gift of heaven:
Where once there was sacrifice,
Now there is mercy.
Where once there was flesh and blood,
Now there are bread and wine.
The mercy of God has been made known in the body of Christ.
The character of God has been made known in the work of Christ.
He has shown us a way forward,
And we will follow the path of peace.

Remembering the Story John 13:1-17, 34-35

Meditation A New Commandment Don Flowers

Remembering the New Commandment

Hymn *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

133

Go to dark Gethsemane,
you that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his grief away:
learn from him to watch and pray.

See him at the judgement hall,
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
see him meekly bearing all;
love to all his soul sustained.
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:
learn from Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain view;
there the Lord of glory see,
made a sacrifice for you,
dying on the accursed tree.
"It is finished," hear his cry:
trust in Christ and learn to die.

Benediction

We are asked to leave in silence