



# ***Maundy Thursday***

## ***April 18, 2019***

### **Invitation to Worship**

Wash my hands on Maundy Thursday  
not my feet  
My hands peel potatoes, wipe messes from the floor  
change dirty nappies, clean the grease from pots and pans  
have pointed in anger and pushed away in tears  
in years past they've smacked a child and raised a fist  
fumbled with nervousness, shaken with fear  
I've wrung them when waiting for news to come  
crushed a letter I'd rather forget  
covered my mouth when I've been caught out  
touched forbidden things, childhood memories do not grow dim  
These hands have dug gardens, planted seeds  
picked fruit and berries, weeded out and pruned trees  
found bleeding from the rose's thorns  
dirt and blood mix together  
when washed before a cup of tea  
Love expressed by them  
asks for your respect  
in the hand-shake of warm greeting,  
the gentle rubbing of a child's bump  
the caressing of a lover, the softness of a baby's cheek  
sounds of music played by them in tunes upon a flute  
they've held a frightened teenager,  
touched a father in his death  
where cold skin tells the end of life has come  
but not the end of love,  
comforted a mother losing agility and health.  
With my hands outstretched before you  
I stand humbled and in awe  
your gentle washing in water, the softness of the towel  
symbolizing a cleansing  
the servant-hood of Christ.  
Wash my hands on Maundy Thursday  
and not my feet.

### **Invocation**

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.

**Scripture**

John 13:1-17, 34-35

**Meditation    Misunderstood--Love**

Don Flowers

**Litany**

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 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**

**Choral Benediction**    *Were You There?*    Christianne Rushton

*We are asked to leave in silence*