

# Home Worship for Maundy Thursday

by Revd Debbie Hodgson

*In preparation for this time of worship  
I invite you to set before you a small piece of bread,  
a small cross if you have one and a 10 pence coin.*



Photo from the Garden of Gethsemane  
(Taken by Edwin Hodgson)

## Hear Jesus' invitation

Is it me you're calling Jesus?  
to come and sit and share with you;  
Around the table with your closest friends.  
This table set with bread and wine.

No ordinary feast is this tonight,  
the air so full of expectation.  
A heaviness in this celebration;  
as you prepare to become our host.

I hear you say, 'my body, blood,  
for you this night is broken, shed'.  
That through this act,  
and with remembering  
God's love and mercy felt, received.

One sacrifice is made for all,  
through whom the sins of all forgiven  
That you might know this night and always;  
all this I do; I do for you.

What makes me stop and hesitate?  
The uncertainty of your request?  
No! more so, my own uncertainty that  
I should dare to sit with you.

Yet I hear your voice now stronger  
Full of love and urgency, call me,  
yes me, your friend and 'brother',  
to receive

The greatest gift from God to man.  
The gift of God's beloved Son.

Help me Lord, though afraid and unsure  
to sit at this your table,  
to share your bread and wine,  
... to accept your invitation.

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## 📖 Bible Reading – John 13:1-14

### Pause & reflect

Jesus wrapped a towel around his waist and washed his disciples' feet to show what true loving servanthood looked like. Jesus is now preparing his disciples for what was to come; not just the cross, but their life long call to servant ministry as his followers. If Jesus, God's own Son would take the lowest place to serve others, then we must learn that too. Allow Jesus to wash *your* feet and listen to him saying "unless I wash you, you have no part with me." [Keep silence for a moment]

### 🎵 Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TgBlyJvnE>

## Prayer

*‘When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve. And while they were eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.” They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely not I Lord?”’ (Matthew 26: 20-22)*

For the price of 30 pieces of silver, Judas betrayed Jesus.

- ✘ I invite you to take hold of your silver coin and offer your own confessions, for the times you have betrayed Jesus; by what you have said, done or not done.

May our Heavenly Father have mercy on us, look on us with kindness, and, for the sake of his Son, forgive our sins. Amen.

## Bible Reading – Luke 22: 14-20

### Reflect

As Jesus moved ever closer to the cross his concern was still for his disciples. Sharing this last Passover with them he not only reminds them of God’s faithfulness in the past but now uses this moment to point forwards to what is to come for him (and them) as he fulfils the work of his Father. The ‘new Passover’ will find its fulfilment in the Kingdom of God. God’s Kingdom comes more fully through Jesus death, and of course resurrection that we must will celebrate after this time of ‘holy pause and remembering’. The new covenant of God’s love and forgiveness will now be sealed by the blood of the perfect Lamb of God. Jesus calls us now to remember, not as a moment in past history, but in all our living.

## Prayer

- ✘ I invite you to **take** your piece of bread. As you hold it, keep silence to listen to Jesus command to ‘**remember**’ this night.
- ✘ **Eat** your bread **and give thanks** that through Jesus sacrifice we live in a new covenant relationship with God, of forgiveness, grace and hope.
- ✘ Hold before God those people for whom this night is dark; not the physical darkness that will disperse with the dawn, but the darkness that comes through fear, anxiety or loneliness, through grief or sorrow, through the belief that they can never be forgiven or truly loved by others or by God.
- ✘ Pray that this night the light of God’s immeasurable love and grace by break through their darkness and give them, peace.

## Bible Reading – Mark 14: 32-42

### Listen: “Stay here with me, watch and prayer”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vhbDVk2Nus>

## Dismissal

Jesus prayed to his Father:

“If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me;  
Yet not my will but yours be done.”

Christ was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.