

# **Maundy Thursday: Jesus resources himself and his friends**





Holy week | Maundy Thursday | 01.03.2021

*Bring a little bread (or a stand-in staple) and some sort of drink (water is fine).*

## **Call to Worship**

The Israelites cried out to God in their oppression.

Their voices still echo around the globe:

in Congo, Sudan, Syria, and BD3.

God hears the cries of the suffering,  
and delivers those who wait on God.

All who suffer, who die, who are alienated  
are precious to God;

Let us love the Lord who restores liberty,  
And gives us hope for peace.

This week we remember the One who gave himself for us,  
Jesus the Christ.

Tonight we remember how he resourced himself and his friends  
For the trials ahead as he shared the Last Supper with them.

As we gather virtually, unable yet to share meals together  
We trust that he will re-source us

As we seek to wait with him

And reconnect with the power of love at the foot of the cross tomorrow.

Through Lent we have been preparing for this great moment of renewal

And tonight we share what we have learned along the way

Especially from our study of resilience

With its themes of resourcing, reframing and resolving

And seek to find how Jesus reframes resilience in his journey to the cross



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## Recalling the Passover - Resourcing and Reframing

**Exodus 12:1-14** - Voice 1

### The First Passover Instituted

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*Imagine yourself and your family in this text,  
among the Israelites who were enslaved and desperate.  
What thoughts might go through your mind  
as you follow these instructions and prepare this meal?  
How would you explain to children*



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*why you are eating “hurriedly”?*

*Are you excited? Fearful?*

*What images of oppression and liberation come to mind?*

*Where do you experience the need for freedom in your life?*

*in your community? in our world?*

*What is the cost of freedom?*

## **A New Commandment from Jesus: Servant Leadership**

**John 13:1-17, 31b-35 - Voice 2**

### **Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater



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than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

### The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." 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.'

*Imagine yourself in this upper room with Jesus and his friends.*

*With whom do you identify? How do you feel?*

*Peter resists Jesus' service of footwashing. Would you?*

*Are you surprised that Jesus included Judas in the footwashing?*

*What would it take to offer a service of love*

*to someone who hurt or betrayed you?*

*What manner of love does Jesus model and command of us?*

### Community and Communion: God in Our Midst

*This commemorative act, central to our tradition,*

*comes alive for us each time we gather*

*at the Communion Table.*

*In re-enacting this event,*

*what is it that we receive from the Lord*

*and pass on to future generations?*

*At this table, and especially on this night,*

*we stand remembering our past, faithful in our present*

*and hoping in God's future,*

*proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again. (1 Cor 11: 26)*

*Certainly we remember Christ's death when we gather here,*

*but what does a future rich in grace and hope look like,*

*when Christ will come again?*



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*What does this moment feel like,  
entwining memory, faith, and hope?  
Do you welcome Christ when you sit down to break bread with friends?  
Whom does Christ call you to invite to join you at the Lord's table?*

## **Gathering at the Table**

Voice 4: Tonight, we remember the last night Jesus spent with his disciples celebrating the Passover meal. We remember that the early church would gather for Agape meals or love feasts to remember Jesus' life and ministry, to affirm their communal identity as the body of Christ, and to share food and resources so everyone would have enough.

Voice 1: Our worship centers around a meal. First, we will share bread, then we will eat our meal together and finally we will hear the story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples. We will close our worship by sharing the cup of blessing.

Voice 2: This table is for all who are hungry. If you are hungry, come.

All: **Where compassion and love are, there is God.**

Voice 2: The love of Christ has gathered us as one. Let us love one another.

All: **Where compassion and love are, there is God.**

Voice 2: When we are gathered in spirit, even distance cannot separate us. Christ is present in our midst.

All: **Where compassion and love are, there is God.**

Voice 2: In this meal and worship, may we feel the joy that is community, the peace that is Christ and the presence that is Spirit. Amen.

## **Breaking the Bread of Life**

Voice 3: Here we are at a table. We come hungry — for food and drink, for company and conversation, for God's Spirit of hope, comfort, and peace for our wilderness journey.

Jesus gathered around tables like this one. He gathered with sinners and saints, religious leaders and tax collectors, the proud and arrogant, the self-deprecating and uncertain, the filthy rich and destitute, the healthy and sick, the young and old. We remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples – a meal





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remembering God's liberating power. At that meal, Jesus took a loaf of bread, broke it and shared it with his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this and remember me."

**All: Holy God, for the food before us, for the community surrounding us and the love around and within us, we say thank you! Amen**

*You are invited to take or serve one another bread saying simply: "The body of Christ"*

### **Table Conversation:**

*How you have seen and experienced community these last few weeks?*

*Has anything surprised you?*

*How have you maintained, strengthened and created community during this lockdown Lent.*

*What have you learned - especially about resilience – in the process?*

### **Telling The Story:**

#### **John 13:1-3, 21-34**

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to God. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew God had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. After he said these things, Jesus was deeply disturbed and testified, "I assure you, one of you will betray me." His disciples looked at each other, confused about which of them he was talking about. One of the disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was at Jesus' side. Simon Peter nodded at him to get him to ask Jesus who he was talking about. Leaning back toward Jesus, this disciple asked, "Lord, who is it?"



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Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread once I have dipped into the bowl.” Then he dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son. After Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” No one sitting at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. Some thought that, since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus told him, “Go, buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. So when Judas took the bread, he left immediately. And it was night.

When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself and will glorify him immediately. Little children, I’m with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the religious leaders, I also tell you now—‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

**All: May God open our hearts to hear the good news.**

## **Sharing the Cup of Grace**

Make sure you have something in your glass — water, wine, juice, tea.

Voice 1: Like Jesus’ disciples, we have broken bread together. We have heard of the betrayal and suffering to come in the days ahead. We remember that at the end of the meal, Jesus took their common cup, and giving thanks for it, he shared it with them saying: “Take and drink — this is the cup of the new covenant poured out in my blood for the forgiveness of sins. Do this and remember me.” Everyone is invited to drink.

**All: We are God’s people.**

**Shaped and formed by water and Word.**

**Sustained and nourished by the gift of Love.**

**Together, we will live as God’s people.**





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## **Benediction**

Voice 1: We must not stay here.

Voice 2: Go out into the night. Hold vigil with Jesus in the garden for a while

Be his faithful friend as he is yours

Voice 3: As we look to the cross, as we feel the wilderness closing in around us,

Voice 4: We trust in God, who promises to fill the darkness with light and the emptiness of death with life.

## **Material drawn from:**

We Receive and Hand On: Prayers for Maundy Thursday was written by the Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson, Minister for Ministerial Formation, MESA Team

Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson from her Maundy Thursday at Home and Maren Tirabasi for all that is adapted from *Gifts in Open Hands*.