

A Love Feast for Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Boulevard United Methodist Church

Upon arriving, guests take a seat at one of the tables (adjoined as one) in the center of the chapel.

All are invited to do one or more of the following:

(1) Quietly reflect upon the order of worship.

(2) Create and apply a nametag.

(3) Assist those making any final preparations; or, help others with any of the above.

During this time of gathering, quiet conversation is appropriate. There is not yet reason to be somber!

Words of Welcome

Greeting

A responsive reading shared between two halves of the gathering.

Return to the Lord, God of all mercies,

for a feast of love has been prepared for God's own.

I will bless the Lord at all times.

Praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Happy are they who take refuge in God.

Numbers 9:1-14

Attendee reads. Participants listen.

The Lord spoke to Moses in the Sinai desert in the first month of the second year after they had left the land of Egypt: ² Let the Israelites keep the Passover at its appointed time. ³ On the fourteenth day of this month at twilight you will keep it at its appointed time. Keep it according to all its regulations and its customary practices.

⁴ Moses instructed the Israelites to keep the Passover. ⁵ At twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month they kept the Passover in the Sinai desert. The Israelites did everything just as the Lord commanded Moses.

⁶ But there were persons who were unclean from contact with a human corpse, and they were unable to keep the Passover on that day. They approached Moses and Aaron that day. ⁷ These persons said to him, "Although we are unclean from contact with a human corpse, why must we be prohibited from presenting the Lord's offering at its appointed time with the rest of the Israelites?"

⁸ Moses said to them, "Wait while I listen for what the Lord will command concerning you."

⁹ The Lord spoke to Moses: ¹⁰ Tell the Israelites: When any of you or your descendants are unclean from contact with a corpse or are on a long trip, they may still keep the Passover to the Lord. ¹¹ They will keep it at twilight on the fourteenth day of the second month. They will eat the Passover lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹² They must not leave any of it until morning, nor break any of its bones. They will keep the Passover according to all its regulations. ¹³ But any persons who *are* clean and not on a trip, yet don't keep the Passover, those persons will be cut off from their people, because they didn't present the Lord's offering at its appointed time. Those persons will bear their sin. ¹⁴ If an immigrant resides among you and wishes to keep the Passover to the Lord, that one also will keep it according to its regulations and its customary practices. There will be one set of regulations for both of you, for the immigrant and for the native of the land.

*A moment is allotted for participants to ask questions or to speak standout words or phrases aloud.
Others actively listen without attempting to provide answers.*

Words of invitation are offered by a leader.

*All serve themselves from the common bowls and plates in anticipation of the meal to come.
The cake and water will be shared later and are therefore set aside.*

John 13:1-17, 33-35

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

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said, 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."

Prayer of Blessing

Reader 1: Bless the Lord who brings us forth

Reader 2: from slavery

Reader 1: to freedom,

Reader 2: from anguish

Reader 1: to joy,

Reader 2: from mourning

Reader 1: to festivity,

Reader 2: from darkness

Reader 1: to great light,

Reader 2: from scarcity

Reader 1: to abundance.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Creator of the Universe. Through your work, all things were made, and by your goodness we have this food to share. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

Passing of the Loving Cup

All receive water, with each person pouring for the person next to them. All may eat and drink once all glasses are full.

Personal Witness

As cake is passed, leader invites all to share responses to one of the following questions:

- How have you experienced the blessing of humility through someone serving you, as Jesus washed his disciples' feet?
- How has God provided for you and protected you from destruction, as God did during Passover?

Each person speaks in turn, upon receiving the cake. If they choose not to speak, they may simply pass the cake to the next person.

A time of eating and drinking comes to an end as the collection is gathered.

Collection for the Poor

As we remember Christ's service to his disciples, may we also be servants to those whom he would call "the least of these." Please give freely to this offering.

Intercessory Prayer

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to God through Christ the savior of the world.
Holy God, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.

**We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.
Lord, hear us all and humble us.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.

**We pray for the unity of your Church.
Lord, hear us all and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his disciples' message.

**We pray for the mission of your Church.
Lord, hear us all and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love, but suffered rejection himself.

**We pray for the rejected and unloved.
Lord, hear us all and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded his disciples that if the world hated them it hated him first.

**We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.
Lord, hear us all and give us your peace.**

On this night, he accepted the cup of death and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.

**We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.
Lord, hear us all and welcome all your children into paradise.**

[ADAPTED, CHURCH OF ENGLAND]

Dismissal with Blessing

Leader offers a blessing on all, inviting them to participate in extinguishing the candles, as a way of preparing for the darkness of Good Friday.

Silently, participants extinguish candles near their place at the table. Leader extinguishes candles on altar. Low lights remain to allow for safe exit.

Any who remain for reflection or for cleanup do so with quiet care.