**Worship for Maundy Thursday 2021 –**

**Led by Kate Hunt**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447754110?pwd=RVNDenQzSkE4SmRsUnUxcENwU1k2dz09>

Meeting ID: 844 4775 4110 Passcode: 131071

Before beginning worship, you might like to gather these elements for our shared meal -

crackers/unleavened bread,

Horseradish/lettuce, apple sauce, boiled egg, green herbs/vegetable, salt water, lamb or a veggie alternative, wine/alternative, milky pudding eg yoghurt, snacks – crisps/nuts.

**Welcome**

Welcome to our worship for Maundy Thursday.

On our journey through Holy Week, we join Jesus at The Last Supper. Jesus’ last supper with his disciples took place in the context of the week of Passover in Jerusalem.

There is much symbolism in our Eucharist that draws on the Passover Haggadah - the Passover liturgy. A vital part of the Jewish Passover is the nature of its hospitality and the sense of community that underlies it. Although the Passover meal takes place in the home, the occasion builds community: the obligation to be hospitable means that no one should be alone.

Today we are sharing across the partnership and in our own homes. We are still building community. As we do, we are looking back, reflecting together and looking forward in anticipation.

If we were physically together, we could have had

a bring and share meal. Today we have tried to bring many of these elements together.

At the end of the Passover meal, Jewish people say, ‘Next Year in Jerusalem’, reminding themselves that Jerusalem is their spiritual home, a place of freedom and goal of their journey from slavery.

As Christians we remember, we are freed from the slavery of sin, through Jesus’ death and resurrection. We look back in sorrow for our sin forward to our new life of restoration.

Let us remember and celebrate what we have achieved over this last year. I have gathered contributions from around our partnership. Each contribution is different and only some of the churches are represented this year. We shouldn’t compare ourselves with others’ endeavours or feel we haven’t done enough or perhaps that we’ve had all the answers. We can learn from each other, pray with each other and celebrate what we have achieved together – these are just tasters of all that has gone on. ‘We are all the body of Christ consisting not of one member but many’ (Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 12. 12&27). We are serving In God’s name and sharing God’s love.

**Call**

We are gathered tonight to move forwards, into our continuing life together, to look back and celebrate all that has happened in the life of our Christian community this last year.

This is the night on which Jesus celebrated with his friends. Then went out into the garden to pray - where he was betrayed.

**Let us pray**

Lord we come as your people

*We bring ourselves*

Our stories

*Our offering*

May we listen to each other,

*Affirming each other*

*And enjoying each other’s company*

As we share, we remember:

*Your passion,*

*Your death;*

Praying with you in the garden

*Standing with you at the cross.*

As we share, we look forward

*To the joy of your resurrection;*

*To the celebration of your triumph*

To the challenges that lie ahead

*And our life of shared joy.*

Come now, Jesus our *Saviour*

Bless this evening:

*Bless our food,*

Our communities,

*Ourselves, our churches.* **Amen**

**Our meal together**

**Aperitif – Drink, Nibbles and Snacks**

As we taste the saltiness and spice of these snacks let’s think about the young people in our communities, vital, bringing spice to our lives, helping us to see things in a new way. Each week throughout this year a gathered Youth Group has been meeting on Zoom. ‘led’ by our Children and Youth Development Officer – Leo. I met up with them last summer and enjoyed sharing with people from across the partnership and even South Wales! We laughed, listened, attempted the quiz, and concluded with the grace in Makaton – sign language. Great to see their commitment, perseverance and to share their experience and point of view.

**Main Course**

Some of our food tonight is symbolic, food normally served in the Seder meal celebrating Passover. Some is for our communion, some are just extras

* Matzo/unleavened bread/crackers

This was quick bread made for the Israelites escape from Egypt. This bread was taken by Jesus to symbolize his body, some of which we shall share later as our communion.

* Bitter herbs/lettuce/horseradish

These represent the bitterness of the Israelites’ slavery. All our church communities support charities in different ways. Hazel from Dundee tells us a little about Traidcraft and the Fairtrade movement helping those who are enslaved by poverty, buying goods so that people get fairly paid for the work they do

* Apple sauce - Charoseth

This represents the mortar holding the bricks together the Israelites made. We all want to provide buildings that can welcome so we can share hospitality and serve our community. Sue from Radcliffe and Stand tells us a little about what their church has been doing to upgrade their facilities – as have many churches across the partnership.

* Boiled egg

This represents life and its continuation. Barbara from Bamford Chapel and Norden tells us a little about the way Messy Church has continued to share with families in our community through videos, craft bags and an Easter Trail.

* Parsley - karpas

This represents hope and redemption. Worship has continued across the partnership in many different ways. Neil from Greenmount tells us a little about how they have been sharing, on Sundays and Thursday evenings, a range of worship through printed services and Zoom.

* Salt water

This represents the tears shed by the oppressed, enslaved Israelites and helps us to think of all those who grieve and suffer. Pastoral care has been a priority for churches during the pandemic. Wendy tells us a little about how Alkrington and Providence have been sending out service sheets, chatting on doorsteps and phoning.

* Lamb shank - Zeroah / veggie alternative

This symbolises the paschal lamb, slaughtered as a sacrificial offering. The blood marked the doorposts of the Israelites so their houses would be passed over or protected from the final plague that affected the Egyptians - the death of the firstborn. John the Baptist uses this imagery to name Jesus, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’ (John1.29) and in our communion we will share together celebrating Jesus’ sacrifice

* 4 glasses of red wine

These represent 4 promises of redemption and another for Elijah. Again, Jesus took this wine to represent his blood and we too will share this.

* **Milky pudding**

This is my addition to represent children in our communities and churches. Judith from Besses o’ th’ Barn tells us a little of how she has been working with Rainbows and Guides on Zoom over the last 12 months.

**Communion**

Tonight, we remember the story of Passover

We have listened to each other

And shared our faith stories

We offer our story to God

We offer ourselves to serve the Lord

in the coming year

We thank God for all these stories

We thank God for each one of us

and all in our wider communities.

Now let us share together

With Jesus and the disciples

And Christians across the world

The meal Jesus has given us

To share together

Bringing new life.

**Let us pray**

Gracious God,  
As those who strive to follow Jesus in our living  
and to trust your power in our dying,  
we gather to reflect upon the life

that ended on a cross.

We recognize in ourselves

the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus’ disciples:  
although they loved him,

they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends

at this last meal  
Jesus washed their feet in service, and then  
extended the bread and cup to each.  
Jesus called them to love one another,

and invited them to share in his very life  
and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

We are humbled, honoured and inspired  
by the deep love Christ extended to the world,  
and we take seriously the calling

to be the body of Christ today.

Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you,  
and guide us back to a place

of trust and faithful living.  
Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it,  
with love and compassion for each creature

and all of your creation.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus **Amen**

~ from “Come and Remember: Prayers for Maundy Thursday,” written by the Rev. Kelly Burd.  Posted on the United Church of Christ website. <http://www.ucc.org/>

**The Bread and Wine of Remembrance**

When the time was right,

God sent Jesus to be among us.

Born into this life,

seeing God’s grace revealed in all things,

he laughed with those who laughed,

and mourned with those who mourned.

Through God’s love, he healed the sick,

he welcomed the outcast,

he challenged those in power,

and the structures that kept them there.

And he called us back to God’s love.

In the power of the Holy Spirit,

the Christ laughs and cries,

heals and welcomes,

challenges and loves,

again and again and again.

We have been told that,

on the night before he was taken

to be tortured to death on a cross,

Jesus sat with his disciples,

and ate with them, in a meal of remembrance.

Jesus took a loaf of bread,

asked Your blessing upon it, broke it,

and gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take this – all of you – and eat it.

This is me. My Body. Given for you.

Each time you eat it, remember me.”

Close to the meal’s end,

he took a cup filled with wine,

asked Your blessing upon it,

and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take this – all of you – and drink it.

This is me. This is my promise in my life’s blood -

poured out for you and for the world.”

Each time you drink it, remember me.

So, we, his disciples,

eat bread and drink wine – and remember.

~ from Richard Bott’s “Communion Liturgy for Advent.” Posted on the LiturgyAlive website. <http://www.bibleclaret.org/liturgy/CycleA/june05/26_hugh.htm>

**Let us pray**

Lord we thank you for feeding us

with your body and your blood

Lord we celebrate our church partnership

Your body in this place

We thank you

For all that we have seen and heard

We thank you for this most holy night

The night of your last supper

The night of your betrayal

The night of your trial

We anticipate the pain

The loss of tomorrow

And we wait for the rising of the sun

On Easter morning

We wait for your new life.

**Sending on**

On this momentous night of the Christian year

We celebrate our past

And we move into our future

We go on into the night

To remember,

To watch,

To wait

To give thanks

And to pray. **Amen**

Maundy Service ideas adapted from Seasons and Celebrations, Canterbury Press