

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2022

A service of readings and prayers based on Luke's Gospel - April 14th, 2022 for Footscray Baptist Church

Music: Stay with me - Taize

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

We gather as the dark takes hold
We gather to break bread and pour wine
We gather to hear the story once again

- the preparing of the lies
- the beating of the heart
- the making of the covenant
- the turning towards the cross
- the rumours of death
- the whisper of night
- the shimmer of grace
- the snap of twigs
- the flash of eyes
- the moment of turning
- and the kiss¹

Remembering the Story

A Plot to Kill and Betray

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present. *(Luke 22:1-6)*

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God,
We confess there are many times we have betrayed you, each other and ourselves.
We have put our benefit before the needs of others
We have acted without thought of the consequences
We have not trusted in your love for us
We have pointed the finger at another or simply been cruel
We have denied even knowing you
It appears that integrity has just become a word for us
We seek your forgiveness.
May the words of Jesus – Father, forgive them – ring in our ears and our hearts.
Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2021)

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Preparations for the Last Supper

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.' ⁹They asked him, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for

¹ from 'Thursday Evening'; written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

it?' ¹⁰'Listen,' he said to them, 'when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. (*Luke 22:7-13*)

Lord Jesus Christ,

Because you broke bread with the poor, **you were looked on with contempt.**

Because you broke bread with the sinful and outcast, **you were looked on as ungodly.**

Because you broke bread with the joyful, **you were called a glutton.**

Because you broke bread in an upstairs room, **you sealed your acceptance of the way of the cross.**

Because you broke bread on the road to Emmaus, **you made scales fall from the disciples' eyes.**

Because you broke bread and shared it, **we will do so too, and ask your blessing.**

(Prayer from 'Bread of Tomorrow', ed. Janet Morley, p. 93)

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!' ²³Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this. (*Luke 22:14-23*)

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Music – Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

Watch and Pray

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' [[⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] ⁴⁵When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' (*Luke 22:39-46*)

Prayers for the World

God of the world,

Jesus asked his friends to watch and pray.

Tonight, we pray for the world:

We pray for those:

Who hunger and thirst – bring sustenance

Who experience violence, war and injustice, especially in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Ukraine – bring peace
Who live lives of turmoil and unrest, especially in Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka – bring more peace
Who are afraid, sad, anxious and confused – bring solace
Who betray and deny you – bring forgiveness
Who are in pain, sorrow or dying – bring comfort
Who are disillusioned – bring hope

Finally, for ourselves we pray for courage for the facing of this hour
In Jesus name we pray and will continue to watch and pray. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2022)

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Betrayal, Arrest, Denial and Mocking

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?' ⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!'

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" ⁵⁹ Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

⁶³ Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; ⁶⁴ they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" ⁶⁵ They kept heaping many other insults on him. *(Luke 22:47-65)*

Music: Stay with me - Taize

Departing Prayer

We believe
the time is now
(with the taste of bread fresh on our lips)
to go into the world and face the darkness

We believe
the moment is right

(with the bitterness of the wine sharp in our mouths) to face the powers of the world
with the love of heaven

We believe
the place is here
(with the sound of covenant echoing in our ears)
to endure the suffering love calls us to

We believe
the path is before us
(with the crumbs of heaven still scattered across the table)
to side with truth in a deafened world

We believe
the hour is come
(with the table conversation a turmoil in our minds) to conspire with Christ and move
against injustice

We believe
the gospel is this
(with bread lying broken and a goblet left empty)
love is betrayed but death shall not have the final word ²

Music: Stay with me - Taizé

² 'Parting Words: Maundy Thursday' written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws.
<http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>