

# MAUNDY THURSDAY 2020 – FOOTSCRAY BAPTIST



**Opening Sentence** Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

## **Opening Prayer**

Jesus our Lord,

We gather this night to remember.

To remember the way you cared for those whom you met.

To remember that which you taught us in parable and story.

To remember that in your living and dying you brought good news to the poor.

To remember that your living and dying you set the people free.

Jesus, tonight we remember your last meal with your friends and in so doing honour you. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*

## **Remembering the Story**

**The Plot Thickens (Matt 26:1-5)** When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup> But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

## **Prayer**

Jesus our teacher,

Help us to truly listen to what you say and take heed.

For the times we act to save ourselves without a thought for others, forgive us.

For the moments we plot and scheme and conspire, forgive us.

Forgive us and have mercy on us we pray. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*



**The Anointing at Bethany (Matt 26:6-13)** <sup>6</sup> Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. <sup>8</sup> But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup> But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>11</sup> For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever this good news<sup>[b]</sup> is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

### **Prayer of Praise**

Jesus friend of all,

We thank you for the example of so many who cared for you, who listened to you.

For a woman who washes your feet with perfume.

For friends who provided hospitality to you in their homes.

For those who travelled with you, company along the way.

For those who sat at your feet and learned, who asked questions, who shared their doubts and to whom you entrusted great truths.

For those who could not contain their excitement and went and shared your good news with others.

May we learn to live our lives like them. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*



**Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus** <sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Jesus,

When we are fickle and keep changing our minds

When we put ourselves first

When we look for a change to betray another

When we give up another for some kind of gain

When we deny another's dignity or need

When we choose expediency over compassion

When we think money is more important

Take away the darkness within, we pray. Amen.

Forgive us

Forgive us

Forgive us

Forgive us

Forgive us

Forgive us

Forgive us

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*



### **The Passover with the Disciples** <sup>17</sup> On the first day of Unleavened

Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup> He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. <sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve;<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>21</sup> and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup> And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup> He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.” <sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the<sup>[d]</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Jesus, bread of life,

We thank you for this meal you shared with our disciples.

We thank you that you meet us in this meal every time we gather to share in it.

We thank you for the rich symbolism contained in it.

The bread – I am the bread of life, you said, may all in the world know the fullness of life.

The cup – symbol of your life poured out for the forgiveness of many – may all the world know your forgiveness and the freedom that gives.

May we too be bread broken for others, wine poured out so others will now forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*



### **Jesus Sets An Example (John 13:3-20)** <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the

Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from the table,<sup>[a]</sup> took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet,<sup>[b]</sup> but is entirely clean. And you<sup>[c]</sup> are clean, though not all of you.” <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

<sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—

and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly, I tell you, servants<sup>[d]</sup> are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>18</sup> I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread<sup>[e]</sup> has lifted his heel against me.' <sup>19</sup> I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he.<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>20</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Jesus, servant of all

We thank you that in this act of washing another's feet you teach us so much.

You teach us that the world should be turned on its head, no one is greater than any other, we are all on a level playing field

You teach us that to follow you, it to serve others.

You teach us that in serving the least amongst us we are serving you.

Strengthen us to follow your example.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*



**Peter's Denial Foretold** <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Jesus,

You know us better than we know ourselves.

You know our weaknesses and our sins.

You know the words spoken and actions undertaken that should never have happened.

You know also how we have failed to speak or act, when we should have done.

You know how we have taken pride in our own achievements. We forget that they have been made possible only by your Spirit.

Despite all of this, you continue to love us.

We acknowledge our sins, and we accept your forgiveness. Amen.

*(Prayer 'Confession' in Meditations from the Iona Community by Ian Reid. P. 46)*



### **Jesus Prays in Gethsemane** <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place

called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” <sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;<sup>[e]</sup> the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

### **Prayers for the World and Each Other**

Ever present God, help us, we pray

Always to be awake

Awake to recognise evil, wherever it is present

Awake to recognise when we are deceiving ourselves

Awake to the needs of others, to share with them their fears and our faith

And above all

Awake, so that we do not miss your coming

*(Prayer ‘Watching’ in Meditations from the Iona Community by Ian Reid. P. 37)*

So, we pray now for your world:

And we continue to pray for your world,

For those who hunger and thirst – may they have food that satisfies

For those who experience violence, war and injustice – may they have peace

For those who are afraid, anxious and confused – may they find solace

For those who betray and deny you – may they know your forgiveness

For those who are in pain, sorrow or dying – may they experience comfort

For those who are disillusioned – may they find them hope

Finally, we pray for ourselves – may we have courage

In the name of Jesus, we offer these our prayers.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*



### **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus** <sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking,

Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

### **Blessing as you go out into the night**

As we go out into this night, have mercy on us, keep us safe from evil and unite us all.

Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2020)*