

FOOTSCRAY BAPTIST CHURCH - MAUNDY THURSDAY

**A service of readings and prayers based on readings from the Gospels of Mark & John
Footscray Baptist Church – April 1st, 2021**

Music – Watch and Pray

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX2_42h1OPI

Call to Worship

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.

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.

Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

Let us watch and pray as our Lord approaches his time of trial and triumph.

(John 12:24-26)

Remembering the Story

She has performed a good service

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some where there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

(Mark 14:3-9)

Prayer of thanks:

Generous God,

In Jesus you reveal so much of yourself to us.

In Jesus we see compassion, truthfulness, integrity and service.

We thank you for the example of an unknown woman's devotion, with her jar of perfume – we will remember her extravagant love.

We thank you for the example of service we see in Jesus as he washes the feet of his friends – we will remember his loving act.

Help us serve with such love and such generosity. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2021)

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Betrayal

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So, he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. (Mark 14:10-11)

Betrayal Again

When it was evening he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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." (Mark 14: 17-21)

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

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." So, the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. (Mark 14:12-16)

Prayer of Preparation

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)

The Last Supper

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:22-25)

Communion is Shared

Music – Watch and Pray

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An example set

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." (John 13:3-11)

Prayers for the World

God of the universe,

Jesus gave us an example of service to follow – strengthen us to serve others in this way.

Jesus asked his friends to watch and pray.

Tonight, we pray for the world:

We pray for peace in places of conflict – especially in Myanmar

We pray for sustenance where hunger and thirst prevail – especially in Yemen

We pray for hope where people are disillusioned, anxious or afraid

We pray for solace in the midst of pain and sadness

We pray for integrity in our political and social systems

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 2021)

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Watch and Pray

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came to them a third time and said to them "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." (Mark 14:32-42)

Departing Prayer

O God,

As we go out into the night, into the darkness:

Take away our fear

Have mercy on us

Surround us with your invisible love

Be with us as we watch and pray. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2021)

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