

# **MAUNDY THURSDAY 2022**

A service of readings and prayers based on Luke's Gospel - April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 kiss<sup>1</sup>

## **Remembering the Story**

### **A Plot to Kill and Betray**

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. <sup>2</sup>The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. <sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; <sup>4</sup>he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. <sup>5</sup>They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>So 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)*

*Music: Stay with me - Taize*

### **Preparations for the Last Supper**

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

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

it?' <sup>10</sup>'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 <sup>11</sup>and 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?'" <sup>12</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' <sup>13</sup>So 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)*

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup>for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' <sup>17</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup>for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' <sup>19</sup>Then 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.' <sup>20</sup>And 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. <sup>21</sup>But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. <sup>22</sup>For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!' <sup>23</sup>Then 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. <sup>40</sup>When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' <sup>41</sup>Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup>'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' [[ <sup>43</sup>Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. <sup>44</sup>In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] <sup>45</sup>When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup>and 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)*

*Music: Stay with me - Taize*

### **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; <sup>48</sup>but Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?’ <sup>49</sup>When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, ‘Lord, should we strike with the sword?’ <sup>50</sup>Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus said, ‘No more of this!’ And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup>Then 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? <sup>53</sup>When 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!’

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

<sup>63</sup> Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; <sup>64</sup> they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” <sup>65</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>

*Music: Stay with me - Taizé*

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