

# English Reformed Church

## Maundy Thursday Evening service

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,  
who redeems us from sin and death.  
For us and for our salvation,  
Christ became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord our God.**

**Hymn 1:** Praise to the holiest in the height

*A Time of quiet for Examination of Conscience and Confession*

O God, You look for Truth in our inward beings;  
For all the ways we have failed to love you with all our  
heart, and soul, and mind, and strength:

**Lord, Have Mercy.....**      *(silence)*

For all the ways we have failed to love our neighbours as  
ourselves:

**Christ, Have Mercy.....**      *(silence)*

Merciful God, who keeps covenant with us through our  
unfaithfulness, we confess that we fail to fulfil your will.

**Holy God,**

**we your Church confess that often  
our spirit has not been that of Christ.**

**Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us,  
where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips  
and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him,  
forgive us, we pray;  
and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.

But Christ suffered and died for us,  
was raised from the dead  
and ascended on high for us,  
and continues to intercede for us.

Believe the good news:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

**Holy Scripture:** John 13:1-15

**13** Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <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.

Music in worship

Holy Scripture ( say together): Philippians 2:4-11

**4 Let each of you look not to your own interests,  
but to the interests of others.**

**5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,**

**6 who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,**

**7 but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form,**

**8 he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.**

**9 Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,**

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### Silence

**Sermon** the missing sacrament? *Followed by pause for reflection*

**Hymn 2:** *From heaven you came, helpless babe*

**Holy Scripture:** Matthew 26:36-56

<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>[a]</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."

<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.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Gracious God,  
on this night Jesus prayed, 'not what I want but what you want.' We pray tonight for those who make that prayer, and who must come to terms with their longings and yearnings being over-ruled by your will...

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer**

On this night, Jesus sought the support and companionship of those dearest to him. We pray tonight for those in pain or adversity, those who are feeling isolated and alone and who need the reassurance that comes from human care and compassion...

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer**

On this night, fear provoked an outburst of violence. Someone cornered lashed out. We pray for those driven to violence because they themselves are violated...

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer**

On this night, an innocent person was arrested and imprisoned unjustly. We pray for all who suffer for their faith, for the cause of right, and all victims of injustice...

Lord, in your mercy / **Hear our prayer**

**Hymn 3:** There is a green hill far away

Blessing

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