



**Thursday, April 9, 2020**  
***Apart and Together: Maundy Thursday at Home***  
**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**

**Apart and Together: Maundy Thursday at Home**

The Thursday before Easter is known as Maundy Thursday. The name is derived from the Latin word for 'command' and refers to Jesus' commandment to the disciples to "love one another as I have loved you." On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples where he breaks bread and pours wine, offers them to his disciples saying, "do this in remembrance of me."

At Saint Paul's UMC, it is our custom to remember this meal together – in community; each week at our 8:30 a.m. service and monthly at our 11:00 a.m. service. But Maundy Thursday 2020 comes to us at an unprecedented time in the history of our world. This ***Maundy Thursday at Home*** liturgy is offered so that even while we are apart, we may share in the sacrament of Holy Communion together. Whether you live alone or have a large family, the truth is we are never alone. As we worship this night, we are joined by our sisters and brothers in the faith and we are surrounded by the saints who have gone before. While we may apart, we join a community around the world gathered to receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.

May God bless our meals.

May God bless our homes.

May God bless our community.

May God bless our world.

**Preparing for Worship**

You are encouraged to include our Maundy Thursday worship as part of your evening meal. Since the Passover meal included special foods, prepare something special for supper.

Since we are going to do the communion liturgy on **Facebook live at 6:30 p.m.**, it would be great to have your meal prior to this time, and allow the time of communion to close out the time at the family table. Or, if that is not possible, plan to join us at 6:30 p.m. for a service of Holy Communion.

Take some special care with your family meal. Set the table with real dishes and silverware; use cloth napkins if you have them; bring a candle to the table and light it prior to the meal. You might also want to include symbols of our faith as part of your centerpiece - a Bible, a cross, a small bowl of water representing the baptismal font; maybe a special plate and cup for the elements of communion.

You will need bread and wine/juice for the sacrament of Holy Communion. You can use anything you have on hand - if you don't have grape juice, that's okay, any kind of juice will work. Remember that these are symbols.

If you desire, and you have time and energy, you might want to make bread for this meal. Or, you can purchase your favorite bread at the store. If you have crackers, that's okay too. Remember that these are symbols.

*\*I would remind you to use the closest thing to bread that you have; the closest thing to juice that you have. This is not the time to break out the chips and soda just to be cute. Holy Communion is a holy sacrament, and should be treated as such.*

**Use this Prayer before your family meal together:**

*Holy God, we thank you for all your gifts.*

*For food that nourishes our bodies in these difficult days, we are grateful.*

*For family, friends, and community who lift our spirits even in isolation, we are grateful.*

*May our worship this evening be one small sign that we trust that you surround us,  
support us, and strengthen us no matter what.*

*Remind us that we are united in Christ, and are together in Spirit.*

*In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Mealtime Conversation/Reflection**

Call to mind someone you know and love – perhaps someone you might have worshipped with at church this evening. Share a story about that person or persons. Give thanks to God for them and all that they mean to you.

## **Gathering Online with the Community (6:30 p.m.: Facebook Live)**

*"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*  
(I Corinthians 11:26)

### **GATHERING AND HEARING OF THE WORD**

#### **Greeting**

#### **Prayers of the People**

*Lord in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

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

#### **Scripture Reflection**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law,**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

**Glory to God. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING THE BREAD**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. As you hold and eat the bread, remember and give thanks that Jesus is the Bread of Life for us all.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ. As you hold and drink from the cup, remember and give thanks that Jesus is the Cup of Salvation for us all.

### **GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*Pass the bread and the cup to each member of the family, saying*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, given for you.

#### **Prayer after the Meal**

### **BLESSING**