Faith UMC – Rutland, Livermore, Gilmore City, Humboldt

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Daily Bread – Nourishment & Info from your Pastors

**Devotion**:  Holy Thursday also known as Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet

**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.

**2**The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper **3**Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, **4**got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. **5**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. **6**He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” **7**Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

**8**Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” **9**Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” **10**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.” **11**For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

**12**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? **13**You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. **14**So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. **15**For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. **16**Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. **17**If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

We are in the midst of Holy Week.  The week from Palm Sunday – Easter.  A Holy sacred time when we remember the last week of Jesus’ life on earth.

The key to this time is remembering. We hear the scriptures, watch movies and dramas to make this time real.  Also, for us to make this story part of our story.

Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday we remember when Jesus gathered with the disciples, shared a meal with them, washed their feet and told them the significance of why he washed their feet.

Maundy originates from the Latin, mandatum – when means, a command, or order.  The Gospel reading for today, recounts the last supper – when Jesus gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom…and how he got up from the table, tied a towel around his waist and began to wash the feet of his disciples…and said, that he gives us a new mandatum – a new commandment, to love as he has loved. This is Christ’s command, that we love one another.

Traditionally when the service on Holy Thursday is called Maundy Thursday that indicates a washing of feet will be a part of the service.   We remember the great humble servant Jesus whose feet should have been washed by the disciples.

Then Jesus gives them a new commandment: 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”  John 13:34-35New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus shows us the example for loving others.  Humble ourselves and understand we are not above helping others.  As Christians being like Jesus is our goal and emphasis.

I also believe we struggle with letting others love and serve us.  We want to be the ones doing for others.  The disciples wanted to wash Jesus’ feet, but he said not tonight.  The teacher became the servant, loving the disciples and showing us how to live our lives.

The servants were at first hesitant to receive this sign and signal of love.  I am hesitant to let others do for me.  I think I can do it all – I don’t need anyone.

This Holy Thursday I invite you to not only consider the example Jesus gives us of a servant. Will you also consider, how you receive the gift of Jesus’ love?  He will soon be put on the cross for us.

How do we receive gifts of grace and love from others? When Jon and I first entered the world of being pastors a retired pastor’s spouse took us aside and said: In the ministry, people will want to give you things. They want to do things for you.  I advise you to be gracious and receive the gifts and offers.

Our first year we received a set of linens, rugs, and many bathroom decorations that were hot pink.  There was a time when hot pink bathrooms were all the rage.  This was not that time.  Before I began to turn down the gifts I stopped and remembered. I graciously received the gifts. That was a difficult lesson to learn.

Even more difficult is receiving the gift of God’s sacrifice that reminds us of God’s love for us, grace offered freely and how we are to love others.

The Bishop of Iowa offered pastors in Iowa permission to do virtual communion. Live stream a communion service where the observers could participate in their homes.

Pastor Jon and I decided we did not feel comfortable doing communion on video. We have decided we will save Holy Communion when we are able to worship together and receive this great gift in person.

I would encourage you as a part of your Holy Thursday observance to read an account of Jesus sharing the bread and juice as a remembrance of his body and blood.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Institution of the Lord’s Supper

**23**For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, **24**and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.” **25**In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26**For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

May God bless and keep you this day.  May we all find resurrection in our lives as Easter morning sun rises.

Pastor Leila

**Info:**

* Tomorrow **we will be LIVE AT 5.**  At 5 pm on Good Friday, we will be live on Facebook for a brief Good Friday Service. We invite you to join us as we read the Passion narrative and remember the price Christ paid for our forgiveness and salvation.
* Attached is the children’s activity sheet for Easter Sunday.
* Governor Reynolds has declared today (Holy Thursday) to be a day of prayer.  See the previous Flock Note for some prayer resources.
* The Easter worship service will be available on our Facebook page beginning Saturday at 5 pm.  We encourage you to organize a watch party with family and friends.  During a watch party you can “chat” with each other in the comments section.