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Charing Cross Pastoral Charge – In-Person & Online  
01 April 2021

Scripture:  
John 13: 1-35

Welcome & Call to Worship

Hello everybody and welcome to our Maundy Thursday service. I hope you are all doing well. We will be taking up the Lord's Supper tonight so if you are here in person you should have grabbed some bread and juice on your way in if you want to take part and if you are at home and want to take part please feel free to go get yourself a cracker or some bread and some juice for when that time comes.

Leave us a comment though say hi to one another, #Communion tonight and if you do not know what a hashtag it, it is when you use the # sign with a word followed after it with no spaces and when you do that it creates something you can click on and see others who have posted that same hashtag in other posts.

We are going to begin this evening by singing a couple songs:

Music

VU 766 – As the Deer Pants for the Water  
&  
Stay With Us

**John 13: 1-35**

**13** It was almost time for the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that it was time for him to leave this world and go back to the Father. He had always loved those who were his own in the world, and he loved them all the way to the end.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus and his followers were at the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to turn against Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given him power over everything and that he had come from God and was going back to God. <sup>4</sup> So during the meal Jesus stood up and took off his outer clothing. Taking a towel, he wrapped it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later."

<sup>8</sup> Peter said, "No, you will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, you are not one of my people."

<sup>9</sup> Simon Peter answered, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but wash my hands and my head, too!"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "After a person has had a bath, his whole body is clean. He needs only to wash his feet. And you men are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> Jesus knew who would turn against him, and that is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and sat down again. He asked, "Do you understand what I have just done for you?" <sup>13</sup> You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash each other's feet. <sup>15</sup> I did this as an example so that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth, a servant is not greater than his master. A messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

<sup>18</sup> "I am not talking about all of you. I know those I have chosen. But this is to bring about what the Scripture said: 'The man who ate at my table has turned

against me.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>19</sup> I am telling you this now before it happens so that when it happens, you will believe that I am he. <sup>20</sup> I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send also accepts me. And whoever accepts me also accepts the One who sent me.”

<sup>21</sup> After Jesus said this, he was very troubled. He said openly, “I tell you the truth, one of you will turn against me.”

<sup>22</sup> The followers all looked at each other, because they did not know whom Jesus was talking about. <sup>23</sup> One of the followers sitting<sup>[b]</sup> next to Jesus was the follower Jesus loved. <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus whom he was talking about.

<sup>25</sup> That follower leaned closer to Jesus and asked, “Lord, who is it?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “I will dip this bread into the dish. The man I give it to is the man who will turn against me.” So Jesus took a piece of bread, dipped it, and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. <sup>27</sup> As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him. Jesus said to him, “The thing that you will do—do it quickly.” <sup>28</sup> No one at the table understood why Jesus said this to Judas. <sup>29</sup> Since he was the one who kept the money box, some of the followers thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the feast or to give something to the poor.

<sup>30</sup> Judas took the bread Jesus gave him and immediately went out. It was night.

<sup>31</sup> When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man receives his glory, and God receives glory through him. <sup>32</sup> If God receives glory through him,<sup>[c]</sup> then God will give glory to the Son through himself. And God will give him glory quickly.”

<sup>33</sup> Jesus said, “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and what I told the Jews, I tell you now: Where I am going you cannot come.

<sup>34</sup> “I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you. <sup>35</sup> All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.”

### The Last Supper

This is an evening when we remember and celebrate the Last Supper. We do this in recognition of the final meal that Jesus shared with His closest followers and friends. John makes it quite clear that Judas Iscariot is going to turn against Jesus and that Jesus already knows this. Judas' role has been decided because Satan had already persuaded Judas to turn against Jesus.

During this final meal Jesus acts in a very humble way and does what would have been considered a very menial task in washing the feet of His disciples. This is an act of hospitality for sure, but it is also an act of humility that is not something a host would ever do. Only the lowest of slaves would wash a guests feet. Jesus chooses to act in a humble and hospitable way and of course Peter does not feel worthy for such a thing.

Jesus though insists that He must wash Peters feet and this is a significant moment because it is Jesus giving the disciples an act of humble service and those are the kinds of acts of service that Jesus wants us to render to each other. Jesus doesn't just point us in the right direction, He leads the way. Jesus doesn't just tell us to humbly serve others, He shows us how to do it.

Even knowing of Judas' imminent betrayal Jesus does not expose him fully and still washes his feet along with the rest of the disciples. Jesus serves Judas despite knowing what Judas is going to do. John does not record much about the Last Supper and simply says that Jesus passed the bread to the person who would betray him, the other disciples do not understand but Jesus serves Judas first, He shows Judas priority and special attention, reaching out to Judas one last time before Judas disappears into the night.

To end this sequence Jesus issues the disciples a new command "to love one another" because people will know that they are followers of Jesus because of their love for one another." Have you had moments or times in your life where there was a person that you didn't like and so you didn't want to serve them or love them? Likely they treated you badly, maybe they were rude or inconsiderate. Possibly they hurt you or someone you love and so you felt like you didn't have to serve or love them.

Jesus in this Scripture really challenges us about what it means to love and serve others because despite knowing what Judas will do and knowing what that will lead too, Jesus still loves Judas and still serves him. Jesus doesn't just serve

Judas though; he serves Judas first which was a special place of significance and honour. Jesus still washes Judas' feet.

Who in your life are you feeling called to serve and love today? Who do you feel like you don't have to serve and love? It seems you should serve and love that person even more than someone 'deserving.' Jesus acts in humble service towards His betrayer even though He had every reason to call Judas out and stop him. Jesus knows that something much bigger is at stake though because the cross for Jesus is not defeat but victory but we will hear more about the cross-tomorrow morning. For tonight let's close out our time together by sharing in Communion, we will sing a song and complete this Maundy Thursday service.

### Communion

As we continue our service with Communion we would often also include a symbolic handwashing where you would be invited to come to the front of the church. You would first dip your hands in the water as a symbol of washing and have them dried on your behalf. After that you would take a piece of bread and some juice and take the elements of Communion in that moment. Things are a little different this year though and so we will not have any sort of symbolic handwashing but we do have hand-sanitizer around that I would encourage you to use on your way out. You should also have the communion elements available to you wherever you are sitting and I would ask that you please hold onto those until instructed to take them as we will take them together during the upcoming song.

I would also like to take this time to remind you that this is not the table of Charing Cross United Church, or the United Church of Canada, but it is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ. You do not have to be a member here, you don't even have to come here regularly; so long as you seek to know, love and follow Christ you are welcome at this table because this is the table of our Lord and Saviour and all who seek to follow in His Ways are welcome at it.

Let us pray...

Holy One, Holy Three, Holy Three-in-One. Come and be in this place as we celebrate and remember the constitution of the LORD's supper. Jesus' final meal with His followers is one of the things we do to remember what Jesus did for us. We pray Father God for Your love and mercy and grace to fill all of the places we are currently located and we ask LORD that You help us to follow Your One and only Son Jesus who is our example of goodness and love. We seek God Your Holy Spirit to heal our wounded hearts, to change us from the inside out and to enter our

souls that we might be changed and renewed every minute of every hour of every day.

We remember tonight LORD the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, the sacrificial Lamb who took our place that we might be made Holy because of what He has done. Jesus in His life and ministry showed us how to truly love, how to properly treat others and showed us a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus in His death showed us what it meant to truly be humble, to surrender oneself to the will of something greater. Jesus became the Suffering Servant that we LORD might be raised to glory. Jesus in His resurrection showed us that everything He did and said was real and true, that death is not the end and that there is always hope because eternity does exist. The cross is not defeat for Jesus, but victory.

We ask LORD for Your Holy Presence to be in these elements before us and that Your Holy Spirit will descend upon us in this place and all places. Help us understand LORD what You have done for us, why You did it and why it needed to be done. We pray all these things and more as we close this prayer praying the words that Jesus taught us in the LORD's prayer...

Our Father, who art in heaven  
 Hallowed be Thy name  
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done  
 On earth as it is in Heaven  
 Give us this day our daily bread  
 And forgive us our trespasses  
 As we forgive those who trespass against us  
 And lead us not into temptation  
 But deliver us from evil  
 For thine is the Kingdom  
 The power and the glory  
 Forever and ever  
 Amen

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11

The teaching I gave you is the same teaching I received from the Lord: On the night when the Lord Jesus was handed over to be killed, he took bread <sup>24</sup> and gave thanks for it. Then he broke the bread and said, "This is my body; it is <sup>[c]</sup> for you. Do this to remember me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after they ate, Jesus took the cup. He said, "This cup is the new agreement that is sealed with the blood of my

death. When you drink this, do it to remember me.”<sup>26</sup> Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are telling others about the Lord’s death until he comes.

The body of Christ broken for you (break the bread)  
The blood of Christ poured out for you (pour the cup)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Again, please hold onto your elements and I will instruct you when to eat them, it will also be on the PowerPoint screen and will happen in the midst of singing this final song for our worship this evening.

*Sing – Behold the Lamb*

Announcements (SC)

- Hybrid Easter services, Good Friday April 2 at 10AM, Easter SONrise will be online only, Easter Sunday April 4 at 10AM
- If you have any good news to share or prayer requests please let us know. Any other announcements or news from the community?

It has been wonderful to be able to connect with all of you. Go from this time of worship, wherever you might be knowing that we in the church love you, that God loves you and we hope that you join us tomorrow for our Good Friday service and Sunday for our Easter Sunday service, #Communion, Cheers!

**END LIVE FEED**