

SB, TS, CC & Wallaceburg Pastoral Charges

Maundy Thursday – April 9th, 2020

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome by:

Sharon:

Andrew:

Eric: *There will be no benediction to conclude tonight's service – just an invitation to join us tomorrow. We will end with soft music to help with a time of reflection following the service.*

Preparation:

- A bowl of water and a towel.
- Simple Communion: Soda Cracker (or another everyday item) and a grape (or another everyday drink).

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Eric: *If you wish – grab a candle to use while we share these services. The flame of the Candle reminds us of the light of Christ that collects us as the faith community, "One in the Spirit". Thanks be to God.*

Opening Song: VU 182 "Stay With Us Through The Night"

- 1 Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the pain.
Stay with us, blessed stranger
till the morning breaks again.
- 2 Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the grief.
Stay with us, blessed stranger
till the morning brings relief.
- 3 Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the dread.
Stay with us, blessed stranger
till the morning breaks new bread.

Call to Worship:

Sharon: Sacred silence: filled. Holy moment: overflowing. Haunting seconds: brimming.

Andrew: Tonight, too much happens in the holy story to comprehend.

Eric: *Too much fear and deceit, too many questions and confusion, too few words and too little space.*

Sharon: Heaven is teetering. The basin is waiting. The action is joined. The holy one of God moves. The darkness encroaches. The light crumples.

Andrew: Bread breaks, and wine spills. Sacred silence: filled. Holy moment: overflowing. Haunting seconds: brimming.

Eric: *A questioning promise, a broken covenant, a wondering band of followers, and a worried Messiah. Won't you wait here a while?*

Andrew: Won't you wait here a while? Long enough, long enough, to grasp even a glimpse, and hold even a fraction, of a broken heaven.

Silence

Foot Washing: Led by Sharon

(Pour water into a bowl large enough to wash people's feet).

As I have done to you:

Jesus didn't explain what he was doing. He just stood up from the table, got a towel and a basin, and he started to wash the disciples' feet. He washed everyone's feet: Peter's, Andrew's, even Judas' feet. Jesus never left anyone out.

Peter felt uncomfortable, telling Jesus, "You will never wash my feet." When Jesus told him that this was part of being a disciple, Peter changed his mind, saying, "Then wash my hands and my head and every part of me!" But Jesus told that this foot washing was not about taking a bath. "Even you will deny me," he told Peter. And still, he washed his feet.

Then Jesus started to talk: "This is what it means to be your teacher," he told them. "You must follow my example and wash one another's feet, too. This is the new commandment that I am giving: you should love one another as I have loved you."

Jesus said, "I will only be with you a little while longer. Where I am going, you cannot come. So, remember the commandment I am giving you. Love one another."

Sharon: Servant God, kneeling, bending, serving us. Take our dusty journeys, and wrap your hands around them.

Andrew: Every path we have trodden in life: every word that has taken us to hurtful locations, every thought that has moved us towards the shadows, every act that had led us into rough places, wash away the pain, as we confess, and you forgive.

During a moment of silence pour some water.

Eric: *Take the wounds of our travelling, and hold them in your healing hands: every journey of remembrance that holds too many memories, every burden we carry that weighs us with anger we cannot let go, every place we have visited that holds too much pain.*

Sharon: Wash away the lingering, as we let go, and let you heal.

During a moment of silence pour some water.

Andrew: Take the discomfort of our values, and wash and wipe and cleanse as you serve us: every lesson about love we have not learned, every heavenly value we have not grasped, every truth of your Realm we have ignored.

Eric: *Wash away the hesitation, as we accept your love, and offer our love, too.*

During a moment of silence pour some water.

Sharon: Jesus says: Come you who are weary, you who are heavy laden. Come and let my hands refresh your living. Let me be your servant, and witness heaven on earth.

Invite the congregation, to dip their hands (or feet) into the water.

Sharing the Meal: Led by Andrew:

As you come to this table a virtual communion
I would remind you that wherever you are this is not the table of a specific congregation or church
It is not the table of a specific denomination, or specific people
The table is the table of Jesus Christ, and all who know Him as Lord and Savior are welcome at it.

And so we say:

Loving God, Holy One, we offer you praise and thanksgiving over this bread and cup, because in Christ Jesus, Your only Son,
You have joined Yourself forever to us, uniting heaven and earth.

Now therefore, we gratefully remember: Jesus birth into our humanity,
His Baptism for our sin, His Compassion for our suffering,
His Intimacy with our frailty, His Rebuke of our pride, Bearing on the cross with His death, and rising from the tomb by the power of God.

On the night before Jesus died, He took some bread, (lift bread)
Gave thanks, broke it and said: "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."
Likewise after supper He took the cup (lift cup) and said:
"This is the new covenant, my blood shed for you."

And so in this place we proclaim Jesus, Crucified and risen,
Our Judge and our Hope.

Bless us with your name God as we seek your Spirit. Come to us and bless these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.
The sign and seal of our forgiveness in Him and our adoption as the children of God.
As we eat and drink together, make us one with Christ and one in Christ,
A sign of His Eternal Reign in all the world.

This sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer to you, Loving God,
Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever.

Amen.

Eric: Christ has died.

Sharon: Christ has risen.

Andrew: Christ will come again.

Sharon: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world. In this hope and as your people, we praise you.

Eric: *At this time, we also remember all those with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . . all who are ill or alone . . . all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . . all whom the world counts as last and least . . . We pray for your church and its varied ministries . . . for the nations as they strive for peace and justice . . . for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share . . . for our families and friends . . . We pray for all of us in this uncertain time. We pray using the words you have given us...*

*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.”*

Andrew:

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer After Communion:

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another is gift and grace. Amen.

Continuing the Journey: Led By Sharon and Eric

Sharon: God in anguish, we hold you, and walk with you, through, on, into the night. **(Pause.)**

Eric: *God, hold us, as we walk too, through, on, into this world’s shadows. (Pause.)*

Sharon: God of passion, we kneel with you, praying, into the night, while the world conspires against you, and tries to put an end to love. **(Pause.)**

Eric: *God, kneel with us, as we pray too, into this night, as forces gather behind our words, and betray love’s future. (Pause.)*

Sharon: God of the day and night, who lives through it, we follow, holding your cup, trusting your will, though the shadows seem so long. **(Pause.)**

Eric: *God, who lives through us, follow on, help us hold your cup, and keep trusting, Jesus, through the deep night. (Pause.)*

Everyone: Amen.

Benediction:

There is a tradition that no benediction is pronounced throughout Holy Week as the whole eight days from Palm Sunday to Easter Day is one long service.

Invitation to Continue with the Holy Week Journey: Led by Andrew:

Andrew:

Song: VU 182 “Stay With Us Through The Night” (Soft Music)