

Introduction to Worship:

We gather together tonight, as Jesus and the disciples did so long ago, around the table. Just as they ate and talked together, so too will we. There is something amazing that happens when we fellowship and eat together – God always shows up. So, this worship will be a bit different from normal worship services, in that we are not at church. But also, we will eat in the middle of it, during it, through it. For just as Christ calls us to remember Him in the breaking of the bread, and the sharing of the drink, we remember, give thanks, and praise Him tonight around the table. Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer & Table Grace:

(should be read responsively – one person starting, the remainder responding with “blessed be your name”).

Loving One who tends creation, **blessed be your name.**

With all praise and adoration, **blessed be your name.**

You have brought us here, together, bound us in one heart forever, in your mercy, failing never, **blessed be your name.**

Jesus, filled with great compassion, **blessed be your name.**

Feed us truth, our lives refashion, **blessed be your name.**

In this bread we give each other, mother, father, sister, brother, make us one with all who suffer, **blessed be your name.**

Break bread and give it to one another saying “Jesus said, ‘Remember me in the breaking of the bread’”.

Spirit, breathing life through water, **blessed be your name.**

Cleanse and keep each son and daughter, **blessed be your name.**

In the pouring, glasses clinking, in refreshment we are drinking, may we feel our interlinking, **blessed be your name.**

Pour water from the common pitcher to serve one another saying “We are bound together in the water that washes us and refreshes us. Remember what God has done”.

Triune God, Eternal, Holy, **blessed be your name.**

You bless all, the high and lowly, **blessed be your name.**

Grateful for the meal before us, raise we up our voice in chorus, knowing always you are for us, **blessed be your name.**

Meal: *Just as Jesus and the disciples ate together, so now do we.*

Reflection:

The reading is offered three times, with pauses between readings:

- *During the 1st reading, listen for what images or words capture your attention.*
- *During the 2nd reading, ask God to show you what to do with that.*
- *During the third reading, decide what you will do.*
- *After the 3rd reading, share at your table what you will do in response to what you have heard.*

Scripture:

John 13:1-7, 34-35

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this

everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Washing – *as a symbol of our response to Jesus’ call to servant leadership take this time to wash the hands of the person seated next to you. This can be done with warm, wet, washcloths at the table, or you can move to a sink to do this.*

Prayer Time:

As Jesus prayed the night he washed his disciples’ feet, so we now pray: **make us one, as you are one, Triune God.**

For boldness to speak and live the truth,
protection in the face of harm,
and mercy to forgive all who harm us:

make us one, as you are one, Triune God.

For growth in holiness through your word,
commitment to compassion and justice for all people,
and love for one another as you have loved us:

make us one, as you are one, Triune God.

With all among whom you send us,
people who are sick, homeless, or in prison,
with leaders and those with means and influence,
and with those who reject or do not know your love:

make us one, as you are one, Triune God.

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all.
Amen.

**Jesus, help us learn from you
how to love one another deeply
and selflessly. Amen.**



**April 9, 2020
At Home Worship Service
For Maundy Thursday**