



Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

*Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021*

A meditation while you wait for
the service to begin.

UNTIL THAT DAY

We cannot shake hands right now.
We cannot hug or kiss cheeks.
We cannot lean in to tell stories
Or draw close to pray.
We cannot pass the peace
Or even pass the time in each other's homes.
We cannot eat together,
Because the world is sick.

So instead of holding each other,
We hold distance.
We hold masks.
We hold statistics on the tips of our tongues.
We hold fear,
We hold space,
We hold tense conversations.

The day will come when all of God's people can gather at Table.
But until that day,
I will wiggle my toes,
And think of footwashing.
I will eat sweet bread,
Ravenously,
And remember Communion.
I will close my eyes,
And picture your face.
I will clasp my hands
And know—
As sure as one palm knows the other—
That we are being held.
We are being held together.

~~~*The Rev Sarah Are*

ROCK LAKE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Maundy Thursday*  
*April 1, 2021*

PRELUDE

“Improvisation on ‘Adoro Te Devote’”  
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Arr. David Lasky

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do you remember your last supper before the pandemic? The last meal you had out at a restaurant with friends? The last meal before fear and anxiety ran the conversation? If you had known it was your last, would you have lingered? Would you have ordered dessert? Would you have held your friends’ hands and told them how much you loved them? If you had known, would you have washed their feet?

Tonight, we gather together, because this night was the beginning of the end. This night was Jesus’ last supper with his disciples. Take a moment to imagine how Jesus must have felt.

Friends, with all of this in mind, I invite you to join me in our opening words:

**Tonight, we will hear, again and again, of a love that knows no bounds. May we be fully present here. May we worship holy God.**

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”

Tune: O WALY WALY

**An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he loved until the end;  
and his disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.**

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his bread, his loving cup.  
Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by this cross shall lift us up.**

**And after supper he washed their feet, for service, too, is sacrament.  
In Christ our joy shall be made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

Fred Pratt Green, 1973. © 1974 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-7334832

CALL TO CONFESSION

The closer and closer we get to the crucifixion... Let us confess together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God who holds us together,**

**If I were to place myself at your table, I would probably be Peter — Sticking to the rules, arguing what I do and don’t deserve. Misunderstanding your radical hospitality, Then again, it’s possible that I’d be Judas — The one who betrayed you, the one who failed to see the good right in front of him, the one who might have thought he wasn’t worthy of your love.**

**If I were to place myself at your table, it’s possible I would be one of the unnamed disciples — watching, but not speaking, silently missing the opportunity to tell you what I believe and how much I love you. If I were to place myself at your table, I am confident that I would have made the same mistakes your well-intentioned disciples made. There is no surprise there. What is surprising is that I know you would have**

**washed my feet nonetheless. So, forgive me, God. Wash not just my feet, but my hands and my head also. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, Jesus knew that Peter would deny... So may this story tonight remind us:

**No matter who we are, no matter where we go, no matter how great our mistakes or regrets are in life, we will always be invited in and held together by the Living God. Again and again and again, we are forgiven. Again and again and again, we are held. Amen.**

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

##### SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

CEB

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later." <sup>8</sup> "No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus responded, "Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> He knew who would betray him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you is clean." <sup>12</sup> After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? <sup>13</sup> You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. <sup>14</sup> If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. <sup>16</sup> I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them. Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son of Man in himself and will glorify him immediately. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I'm with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—'Where I'm going, you can't come.' <sup>34</sup> "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. <sup>35</sup> This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

#### MEDITATION

##### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are each a tapestry of stories. We are our stories of fear and grief, as well as our stories of love and joy.**

**We believe that God sees all of these interwoven truths and says to our fragile selves:**

**“Come in. Come in from the cold, come in from the rain, come in from wherever you are, and be here tonight.”**

**We believe that God then pours warm water into a basin to wash off the weariness of the day, the bruises of the past, and the doubt that clings to us. We believe that this act is an act of love.**

**Similarly, we believe that God says to us: “Eat.” And God shares of God’s self, and it is food not only for our bodies, but for our souls.**

**We believe that all this happens every time we close our eyes and imagine God, and every time we close our eyes and imagine God.**

**We believe the parts of our tapestry that feel worn and frayed are held together.**

**So today, we remember. Today we say thank you.**

**Today, we know — we are held together. AMEN**

HYMN

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” Tune: BEACH SPRING

**Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.  
In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light,  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.  
Jesus speaks across the ages: “I am with you; do not fear!”  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2005. © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.  
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SACRAMENT OF LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION

PRAYER

HYMN

“Jesus, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Tune: CHEREPONI

*Refrain:* **Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***

**Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others’ feet;  
this is the way we should live like you. *Refrain***

BENEDICTION

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