

# Maundy Thursday

## Celebrating at Home

A Joint Service of South Haven UCC and Hope UMC

What you can use at home:

- A candle: to represent the light of Christ with us.
- Purple cloth, shirt, towel--whatever you can find!: to represent the liturgical color for Lent.
- A bowl of water and towel: to use for foot washing, handwashing, or just as a representation.
- A food that is special to you: for the Agape Meal or Love Feast. Could be very simple or a full meal that you eat. This could be the time to bring out the good china.
- A bible: to follow along with the scriptures being read.
- A table: you are encouraged to follow and participate in this service as you are able, perhaps around your kitchen or dining room table.

If you have any or all of these, that will help you set up for home worship. But know that anything you do will be blessed by the presence of God in your homes.

The video liturgy for the service will be posted on Facebook on both church's pages ([www.facebook.com/southhavenucc](http://www.facebook.com/southhavenucc) and <https://themissionofhope.org/livestream/> )

You can follow along with the video liturgy, listening and reading along to the scriptures and singing the songs. However, if you don't have access to the video, you can also recreate the service on your own by using the liturgy on the next page.

May your worship this Holy Week be blessed by God who has created us and sustains us in this time.

--Pastor Rachel

## **Gathering Together**

Welcome and Greeting

Reading of Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.  
Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.  
What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord,  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.  
Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.  
O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!

Song: Just as I Am #207 (NCH), #357 (UMH)

## **Service of Foot Washing**

Reading of John 13:1-17, 31b-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.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash

you, you have no share with me.’ Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!’ 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.’ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’

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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants\* are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him,\* God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” 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.’

Song: O Savior, Let Me Walk with You #503 (NCH)

Instructions for Foot Washing

This time will be adapted depending on if you are in your home alone or if you are with others. If you are with others, you are invited to either wash one another’s feet or hands as you are comfortable. The UCC Book of Worship says this about foot washing: “The church observes footwashing because Jesus offered it as an example whereby Christians may mutually observe the place of humility and service in the Christian life.” Therefore, if you are at home, even by yourself, use this time to reflect on how remaining at home is an act of humility in caring for others. You are also invited to wash your own hands at this time.

A scripture you can repeat while participating in ritual is from Psalm 51, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”

Song: Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face #336 (NCH), #623 (UMH)

## **Service of the Agape Meal or Love Feast**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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, 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.’ 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.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Song: Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread #342 (NCH)

### Instructions for Agape Meal

As you eat the food you have gathered, you are invited to answer and share or journal answers to the following questions written by Sarah Are (A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

- 1) Reflect back to past meals and moments around table. What meals have been memorable? What gatherings made you feel welcomed? Have you ever had a memorable Communion experience? What made it memorable?
- 2) How does it make you feel to know that Jesus fed and shared a meal with all of his disciples, even Judas who would soon betray him? What does that teach us about God?
- 3) Jesus gives thanks for the bread before breaking it. What things do you give thanks for in your life? Make a quick mental list of 5-10 things you often forget to thank God for. Jot them down or share them with those gathered at the table.
- 4) Food is a common love language. Think back to a time when someone offered or prepared food for you as a sign of love. Do you think that Jesus was trying to express his love for his disciples in this last meal? How does that layer add to the story?

After reflecting, you can bless the meal with the following prayer.

Jesus, friend of all, we know that you sat at table with your disciples. It was your gift and presence that blessed that meal. We ask that you would come to us even now. As we are separated from those we love, we ask that you hold us all together in your spirit. We remember you and we love you. Amen.

### **Sending and Blessing**

Song: Ah, Holy Jesus #218 (NCH)

### Blessing

You can conclude the service by sharing a sign of peace with those with you or those connected from afar. May the peace of God be with you!