

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [KELVIN]

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to this service for Maundy Thursday 2020 - the start of our triduum - three days which begin with a meal shared by Jesus with his friends.

Don't forget that what happens on Maundy Thursday is just the start of something that lasts until Sunday.

I'm very used to sharing this dramatic story in St Mary's Cathedral. Feet get washed and kissed. The church is stripped of everything that is lovely as we remember Jesus having everything stripped from him.

The signs and symbols that we have used before will be different to the signs and symbols that we use this year. There will be some things that are familiar. And there will be things that feel new and fresh. I keep reminding myself that it is what those signs and symbols point to which matters. And we will be taken to the things which matter more than anything else in the world as we keep these three days together.

Confession and Absolution

[OLIVER] God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

[Silence]

[OLIVER] God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[KELVIN] God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from our sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Collect - [KELVIN]

O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left to us this meal of bread and wine in which we share his body and his blood. May we who celebrate this sign of his great love show in our lives the fruits of his redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

The Ministry of the Word – second video

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

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.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

[Pulpit improv]

Sermon [OLIVER]

Brace yourselves. This evening I plan to talk about something that will make some of you uncomfortable. This could be a talk that puts you right off. It might make one or two among us ask whether or not what I'm going to talk about is even an appropriate subject to talk about in church.

Tonight, I will talk about ... feet.

Many people have issues with feet. Research last year from foot-care brand Scholl revealed one in three people said they were embarrassed by their feet. Things like blisters, corns, ingrown toenails, athlete's foot, fungal nail infections, bunions, and excessive foot odour affect all kinds of people.

Feet take a beating through the course of our lives. Lorraine Jones from The College of Podiatry reminds us, 'Feet are one of the hardest working parts of the body.' They show the miles we've walked, the places to which we've travelled, the gyms and public pools we've showered in, and the shoes we've worn.

And many of us aren't happy with the effects these things have had on our feet—the marks they've left and the impairments they've left us with. So, it's a good thing—a lot of folks think—that we wear shoes. Keep those tootsies covered up!

The issues folk have with feet aren't new. In ancient times—with some wearing sandals and other poorer folk going without any foot covering at all—feet contended directly with the dust and dirt of the road, poisonous insects and snakes, sharp rocks, animal droppings and the waste products of human beings.

Feet made up-close-and-personal contact with the environment. They weren't the sort of thing that, after a long day of walking around, you'd expect to be clean. In fact, people probably found it necessary to wash their feet repeatedly every day. In the Bible, we

read about certain customs surrounding the washing of feet, especially when entering homes. It was a sign of hospitality, and, usually, the lowest servants in a household got this job—and perhaps it's no wonder why.

So, when Peter tells Jesus he doesn't want Jesus to wash his feet, many of us might understand where he's coming from. We say, 'I'll deal with my feet in private, thanks.'

Of course, there are all kinds of things like feet ... things we're not eager to expose. We don't want to share the bits of us that are vulnerable and sensitive. Giving over the smelliest, potentially dirtiest parts of us isn't something a lot of people feel comfortable doing. But in tonight's gospel, Jesus asks to have something to do *with those very bits*.

On the eve of his Passion, when things are about to get really ugly—Jesus tells us that it isn't some sanitised version of relationship he's offering. Jesus' actions indicate a kind of relationship that deals directly with the unpleasant, the wounded and battered bits of life. And, anything other than that kind of honest, real relationship isn't worth pursuing—not with Jesus.

It's an uncomfortable ask: to allow Jesus or someone else to touch our feet (or whatever part of us that we feel isn't okay, or clean enough), to give someone access to the malfunctioning pieces, the things we're ashamed of, the stuff that smells; to give over the ailing and aching parts of us, and to come just as we are: with all the distorted bits, with bulges and bends, marked and worn, displaying mistreatment and disregard. But, this—this injured and awful way—is how Jesus has revealed himself to us. And he's got the marks that show it. All you have to do to see them ... is look at his feet.

Intercessions – Caitlin Wakefield

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet. We pray for those who are sick and

those who tend them. We pray for those who are dying and those who love them.

We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.
Lord, hear us and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of your Church.

Lord, hear us and unite us.

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who were to believe through their message. We pray for this mission of your Church.

Lord, hear us and renew our zeal.

On this night, Jesus commanded them to love, but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and unloved and those who are alone

Lord, hear us and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded them that if the world hated them, it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord, hear us and give us your peace.

Eternal God, your Son Jesus Christ taught us that what we do for the least of our sisters and brothers we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Communion – third video

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer
Which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you,
maker of light and darkness.
Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven
and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us
to live as sons and daughters
in our Father's house.

We who by Christ's power
follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels

and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you
most loving Father,
for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
Lifted on the Cross,
his suffering and forgiveness
spanned the gulf our sins had made.
Through that dark struggle
death was swallowed up in victory,
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
Recalling this, the night of Israel's release,
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
your Chosen One, himself the First-Born,
freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat.

This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:

“Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;

it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us,
so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Communion

Today we cannot each receive the bread and wine in person but
God is present in this world.

As we gaze in our adoration we feed on God in our hearts and
minds that we may in turn feed the world.

Antiphon

Ubi caritas (plainsong) – Morven Bremner, soprano

Stripping of the Altar

Young church materials are available on the online worship page - www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.