

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Thursday, April 6th, 2023
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Mandatum Novarum
Maundy Thursday
John 13:1–35

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Jesus said:

I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.

On this day
Christ the Lamb of God
gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

On this day
Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

On this day
Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet,
giving us an example that we should do to others
as he has done to us.

On this day
Christ our God gave us this holy feast,
that we who eat this bread
and drink this cup
may here proclaim his holy sacrifice
and be partakers of his resurrection,
and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

O God, your love was embodied in Jesus Christ,
who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal.
Wash us from the stain of sin,

so that, in hours of danger,
 we may not fail,
 but follow your Son through every trial,
 and praise him always as Lord and Christ,
 to whom be glory now and forever.
 Amen

Opening Hymn #176: “Lead Me to Calvary” (V 1,2,4)

King of my life, I crown Thee now
 Thine shall the glory be
 Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow
 Lead me to Calvary

Lest I forget Gethsemane
 Lest I forget Thine agony
 Lest I forget Thy love for me
 Lead me to Calvary

Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid,
 Tenderly mourned and wept;
 Angels in robes of light arrayed
 Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept. [Refrain]

May I be willing, Lord, to bear
 Daily my cross for Thee;
 Even Thy cup of grief to share-
 Thou hast borne all for me. [Refrain]

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
 Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God,
 whose covenant with us is never broken,
 we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.
 Though you have bound yourself to us,
 we will not bind ourselves to you.
 In Jesus Christ you serve us freely,
 but we refuse your love
 and withhold ourselves from others.
 We do not love you fully
 or love one another as you command.
 In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.**

**Lead us once again to your table
and unite us to Christ,
who is the bread of life
and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.
May the God of mercy,
who forgives you all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life.
Amen

The Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

Peace be with you

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Hand Washing

Scripture

John 13:1–35

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he

loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have

loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Sermon

This bit of scripture begins with an important piece of information. John tells us that **‘before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father’**. Jesus Knew. He knew everything that was going to happen to him over the next few days, he knew of the betrayal of Judas, of the sale accusations by the Jews, of the complacency of the Romans, of the ridicule and scorn he would suffer, of the physical torture he would endure and even of the death he would suffer on the cross. As Jesus sat down to supper with his disciples, he knew that this would be the last time he saw them before he went through his death and resurrection, he knew this was the last night they would have under the Abrahamic covenant, as God was about to establish a new covenant with His people.

This had to weigh on his heart that evening, he is about to suffer the most agonizing death that humankind has devised when executing a fellow man. Any sane person knowing that crucifixion lays in their future would be fleeing into the wilderness, trying to escape that excruciating death. Yet Jesus does not flee, out of love and obedience to the father and out of his love for you and I, Jesus does not flee and instead he shows his love to his disciples and takes this one last opportunity to teach them before everything changes.

Jesus Knew! He knew that he was about to give his life up for the world, and what did he do? He gathers his friends together for the Passover meal, and at that meal, he gets up from the table in the midst of the meal, takes off his outer robe, ties a towel around his waist, pours water in a basin and begins to wash the feet of the disciples. A gesture of pure humility. According to the custom of the day, when a guest came to dinner it was usually a servant who would wash the dust of the travel off the feet of the guests, to remove all the grime that would have gathered because of walking in sandals.

On this day however, Jesus is the one who fills the roles of the servant. Jesus noticing that everyone still had the dirt of the walk on their feet, chooses to give his disciples an example of true service by washing the feet of all his disciples, a task that many people would not want to do. His humility in humbling himself to wash the feet of his followers, is a symbolic gesture of what is to come, when upon the cross Jesus would in humility give his life for the redemption of mankind.

Peter of course has to raise his voice at this time. He forcefully objects to Jesus washing his feet saying, **‘Lord, do you wash my feet?’**. Peter had no idea what Jesus was doing when he was washing the feet of his disciples. Peter knew that he was a student of the Rabbi, a disciple of Jesus, and the master should never wash the feet of the student. Peter thought it should always be the other way around. So, he states it quite plainly, **‘You shall never wash my feet.’**

Jesus rebukes Peter immediately, **'If I do not wash you, you have no share with me'**. Jesus is trying to tell Peter of the importance of the symbolism of the act of washing of the feet and the love it represents. Peter is focused on the physical act of washing of feet, it was completely lost to him that Jesus, the son of God, was the one who was giving them an example of humility, Jesus was once again showing his disciples what love through service meant, as he had done so often in his ministry. What Jesus was doing as he washed the feet of his disciple was giving them an example of how they were to humble themselves, how to express their love of God and to serve in the life of others.

Jesus knew his time of death was approaching, yet here he was washing the feet of the disciples. Including the feet of Judas, the one that he knew was going to betray him that evening and begin the series of events that would lead to his crucifixion. Think of the humility it took to serve, to wash the feet, of the man who he knew was going to betray him for a mere thirty silvers.

Many biblical commentators believe that one of the major motivators of Judas's betrayal is that Jesus was not living up to his expectation of the Messiah. Judas wanted Jesus to be that military messiah, one that would lead the nation of Israel much like King David had, one that would lead Israel to conquer Rome. In fact, we know that this was the expectation that many Jews of the time had of the Messiah, yet here he was a humble servant, who would as Isaiah had predicted usher in a new covenant and a new relationship with God through his life and death.

Jesus knew and yet he still washed the feet of Judas and did not stop him from carrying out his plan for that evening. In this we see how much God loves the world, a love that goes far beyond the love of self, a self-sacrificing love.

The second thing we see this night is not recorded in the Gospel of John, but is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The sacrament of Communion was performed for the very first time that evening and it too shows that Jesus knew that evening everything that he was going to go through over the next few days. He knew and he understood why it needed to be done.

According to the Gospels on that night Jesus took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then, after the meal, Jesus took an extra cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "drink of it, all of you, for this is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus knew. He knew that what was going to be accomplished through Judas's betrayal, through his suffering, through his death upon the cross, was all according to the will of God. He knew that by giving his life up on the cross he would become the Pascal lamb for all of mankind, the one who gave his life to redeem true believers from sin to death, to establish for them a new relationship, a new covenant between God and his people that would last forever. So, on that final evening together, Jesus instituted a new covenantal meal, one that symbolizes for all

of the faithful the means of grace through which Jesus Christ has baptized into his death and his resurrection.

Jesus knew, he fully understood the new covenant that would be made between God and his people, and he knew that that covenant, based in his death and his resurrection would have to have some contractual terms. The ten commandments of the Old Testament and Old Covenant did not adequately express the terms of this new covenant that is about to take place, the new covenant would include the Ten commandments and all the rules and laws of the Old Testament but also, they would include something more.

For this reason, Jesus tells all of his disciples, **‘A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.’³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’**

In fact, this commandment is where Maundy Thursday gets its name. It comes from the Latin Mandatum Novarum, which literally translates as a new mandate or a new commandment. Maundy Thursday literally means that day of the commandment, the day in which God set out the terms of his new covenant relationship with his people, one based on loving one another as Jesus Christ loved us. Robert Webber says, ‘A primary meaning of this service is to celebrate the giving of the new commandment to love one another, a commandment given in the context of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet.’

And when we remember that Jesus knew that he was about to go to the cross and give his life up upon it, he knew what it meant to humble himself in service even to the point of taking on the role of the servant in washing the dirty feet of his disciples, including the man who would betray him, he gives us a beautiful model of Christ like love that we are called to emulate. To know that He was fully aware that the new covenant would no longer require the sacrifice of the Paschal lamb, the lamb whose blood had protected Israel's children from the death that swept over Egypt, the lamb whose blood had freed the Israelites from slavery because it would not be His body and His blood that would be given in sacrifice to free us from our bondage and slavery to sin and death, it reminds us of his ultimate gift of love.

And Jesus knew that we too, like Judas who betrayed him, or Peter who denied him or the rest of the disciples who deserted him, would continue to fall into sin, would continue to fail to love as he did institute a sacramental meal, a means of grace, a reminder for all of us of his loving forgiveness, a reminder of how his Body and his Blood frees us from the bondage of sin and death and is always available to those who embrace him in faith. So let us, Those who truly know and understand the extent of our sin, come together now and partake in the body and blood of Jesus Christ, who knowingly gave himself up for our redemption.

Music Ministry: “Face to Face at Calvary” Choir

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Hear the words of the institution
of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ:
The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,
and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.
Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,
until he comes.
With thanksgiving,
let us offer God our grateful praise

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;
And also with you.

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

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.
You bring forth bread from the earth,
and create the fruit of the vine.
You made us in your image,
and freed us from the bonds of slavery.
You claimed us as your people,
and made covenant to be our God.
You fed us manna in the wilderness,
and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey.
When we forgot you, and our faith was weak,
you spoke through prophets,
calling us to turn again to your ways.

Therefore we praise you,
 joining our voices with the celestial choirs
 and with all the faithful of every time and place,
 who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
 whom you sent to deliver us
 from the bondage of death and slavery to sin.
 In humility he descends from your heights,
 to kneel in obedience to love's commands.
 He who is boundless takes on the bondage of our sin.
 He who is free takes our place in death's prison.
 In the deserts of our wanderings, he sustains us,
 giving us his body as manna for our weariness.
 The cup of suffering which he drank
 has become for us the cup of salvation.
 In his death, he ransomed us from death's dominion;
 in his resurrection, he opened the way to eternal life

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
 we take this bread and this wine
 from the gifts you have given us,
 and celebrate with joy
 the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
 Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
 as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
 that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

**Christ has died;
 Christ is risen;
 Christ will come again.**
 Gracious God,
 pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
 that the bread we break
 and the cup we bless
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ
 and with all who are baptized in his name,
 that we may be one in ministry in every place.
 As this bread is Christ's body for us,
 send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.
 Intercessions for the church and the world may be included here.
 Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit
 to live as love commands.
 Bound to Christ,
 set us free for joyful obedience and glad service.
 As Jesus gave his life for ours,
 help us to live our lives for others
 with humility and persistent courage.
 Give us strength to serve you faithfully
 until the promised day of resurrection,
 when, with the redeemed of all the ages,
 we will feast with you at your table in glory.
 Through Christ,
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
 with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
 now and forever.
 Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.**

The Story of the Last Supper

Because there is one bread,
 we who are many are one body;
 for we all partake of the one bread.
 The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

Prayer after Communion

God of grace,
 your Son Jesus Christ
 left us this holy meal of bread and wine
 in which we share his body and blood.
 May we who have celebrated 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 forever

Closing Hymn #374: “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” (V 1,2,4)

O Love that will not let me go,
 I rest my weary soul in thee.
 I give thee back the life I owe,
 that in thine ocean depths its flow
 may richer, fuller be.

O Light that foll’west all my way,
 I yield my flick’ring torch to thee.
 My heart restores its borrowed ray,
 that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day
 may brighter, fairer be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
 I dare not ask to fly from thee.
 I lay in dust, life’s glory dead,
 and from the ground there blossoms red,
 life that shall endless be. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

God of love,
 it is because of your immense love for us that
 you stooped to be our servant and willingly suffered to give us life.
 For that love we give you thanks.
 We also praise you for the way that love is evidenced
 in creation . . .
 in our community . . .
 in our church . . .
 in our lives . . .
 in the events of this Holy Week . . .
 God of love,
 you have given us a new command to love each other.
 Help us to show that love
 in our care of creation . . .

to the nations of the world . . .
to our nation and its leaders . . .
in this community . . .
through the church universal . . .
through this local church in its ministry . . .
to persons with particular needs . . .
In all our thoughts and actions
may we be your servants and reflect your love.
We pray this in the name of your servant Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Benediction

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and through grace gave us
eternal comfort and good hope,
comfort your hearts and strengthen them
in every good work and word. Amen.