

Christchurch Hitchin - Tilehouse Street - Walsworth Road



A Love Feast for Maundy Thursday - 7.30pm Thursday 1st April 2021

The early Methodists borrowed the idea of a 'Love Feast' from the Moravian Church. It was a time of sharing food and testimony – a way of celebrating community, and celebrating what God was doing in the lives of ordinary people. John Wesley insisted that testimonies should be live and up-to-date: where has God been for you in the last couple of weeks?

This year we cannot meet together to share communion on Maundy Thursday. So we will meet on zoom to share a love feast. We will hear testimonies from three of the characters involved in the events of Holy Week – video diaries which invite us to look afresh at these familiar stories. And then we will split into breakout rooms to eat together, and to share our own testimonies with a small group – where is God for you today, after a year of lockdowns?

Traditionally love feasts consisted of 'a little plain cake and water'. If you would like to make your own love feast cake for this evening, the recipe is on the Methodist UK website:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/16536/fando-a-traditional-love-feast-cake-recipe.pdf>

Or you can bring a biscuit, or anything edible you have to hand.

How to join the Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86837259464?pwd=YmVKME03SWJjZXZlWndnd2p6Y2JKUT09>

Meeting ID: 868 3725 9464 Passcode: 984651

One tap mobile

+442030512874,,86837259464#,,,,*984651# United Kingdom

+442034815237,,86837259464#,,,,*984651# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 868 3725 9464 Passcode: 984651

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86837259464?pwd=YmVKME03SWJjZXZlWndnd2p6Y2JKUT09>

Worship Leader: Revd Val Reid

Drama co-ordinator: Tony Edmonds

Music: Paul Arnold

Readers: Revd Jane Robson and Revd Andrew Henton Pusey

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The presiding minister says:

On this night, our Lord Jesus Christ said:

'A new commandment I give to you,
that you love each other, as I have loved you.'

Music (StF 569 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 his Cross shall lift us up.

And after Supper he washed their feet
for service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete –
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace,
he loves beyond the uttermost:
in every room in our Father's house
he will be there as Lord and Host.

Fred Pratt Green

The presiding minister says:

Let us confess our sins to God and ask him to cleanse us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you,
against our neighbour,
and against each other,
in thought, word and deed,
in the evil we have done
and in the good we have not done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image within us.
We are sorry and ashamed
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us out of darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

This is Christ's gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Mary of Bethany speaks...

Followed by silent reflection with music



Mara speaks...

Followed by silent reflection with music



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Father, on this night, the night on which he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet
and said that they ought to wash one another's feet.

We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, humble us.

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one.

We pray for the unity of your Church . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, unite us.

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who were to believe in him.

We pray for the mission of your Church . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, renew our zeal.

On this night, Jesus commanded his disciples to love, but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for those who are rejected and unloved . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, fill us with your love.

On this night, Jesus reminded his disciples that if the world hated them it first hated him.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, increase our faith.

On this night, Jesus told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them.

We remember in your presence all who have died . . .

and those who have been bereaved . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, renew our hope and trust in you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

On this night,
our Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples:
'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We share the peace with each other across our zoom screens

Charles Wesley's Love Feast Hymn (StF 646 Tune: Leach]

Come and let us sweetly join,
Christ to praise in hymns divine;
Give we all with one accord
Glory to our common Lord.
Hands and hearts and voices raise,
Sing as in the ancient days;
Antedate the joys above,
Celebrate the feast of love.

Jesus, dear expected guest,
Thou art bidden to the feast,
For Thyself our hearts prepare,
Come, and rest, and banquet there!
Sanctify us, Lord, and bless,
Breathe Thy Spirit, give Thy peace,
Thou Thyself within us move,
Make our feast a feast of love.

Let us join, ('tis God commands)
Let us join our hearts and hands
Help to gain our calling's hope,
Build we each the other up.
God His blessings shall dispense,
God shall crown His ordinance;
Here in His appointed ways;
Nourish us with social grace.

Hence may all our actions flow,
Love the proof that Christ we know;
Mutual love the token be,
Lord, that we belong to Thee
Love, Thine image, love impart!
Stamp it on our face and heart!
Only love to us be given!
Lord, we ask no other heaven.

THE LOVE FEAST

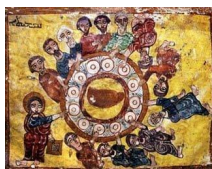
You are invited to move into a breakout room for 15 minutes.

You are invited to eat and drink together, and to share your testimony.

How are you feeling today?

What is happening in your life?

Where is God for you?



We come back together.

If you can, you are invited to turn out the lights where you are, so that you are sitting in the dark.

We listen to the story of this night from Mark 14: 26-72

Judas speaks...

Followed by silent reflection with music



Music

God moves in a mysterious way (Graham Kendrick)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCca-8HDIVg>

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform.
He plants his footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs
And works his sovereign will.

You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

*And I will trust the hands that made the starry heavens
And I will trust the wounds of calvary
And I will trust, I will not be afraid
For all his ways are love*

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

And I will trust...

William Cowper