

JESUS' FINAL MEAL

John 13:33-35; John: 13:1-17 // Maundy Thursday

*This worship service centers on Jesus' final meal with his disciples, when he washed their feet. The name "Maundy Thursday" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment. It points to the commandment Jesus gave to his disciples: to love one another, as he had loved them. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.*

MAIN THEME: *Remembering the Upper Room*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ✠ **All To Us** [Key of C]
Text and Music: Matt Redman, Matt Maher, Jesse Reeves, Chris Tomlin
© 2010 worshiptogether.com songs// sixsteps Music // Vamos Publishing // Matt Maher Designee // Said And Done Music // Thankyou Music
- ✠ **Come, All Christians, Be Committed** [Key of E or F]
Text: Eva Brown Lloyd
© 1966 Broadman Press
- ✠ **I Stand Amazed in the Presence** [Key of G]
Text: Charles Hutchison Gabriel
© Public Domain
- ✠ **Stay with Me** [Key of D minor]
Text: Taizé Community, paraphrase of Matthew 26:26-41
Music: Jacques Berthier
© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications)
- ✠ **The Summons** [Key of E or F]
Text and Music: John L. Bell and The Iona Community
© 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. Agent
- ✠ **They'll Know We Are Christians** [Key of F minor]
Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, para. John 13:35
© 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Consider using this Call to Worship that we found in *The Worship Sourcebook*.

*I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.*

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.



I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

*O taste and see that the Lord is good;
Happy are those who take refuge in him.*

*What shall we return to the Lord for all his bounty to us?
We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;
We will pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.*

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
In worship on this day, we testify to God's love shown perfectly in Christ, and we recommit ourselves to
love one another as a community of faith.*

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FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

We like the collection “Washing of the Feet” by Lucinda Naylor. Purchase it at [eyekons.com] and display a print at each foot-washing station. Consider printing these on 11×17 or larger paper and having them mounted on foam board. Save them, and use them year after year in different ways.

Before you purchase art, ask this question: is there an artist or photographer in my midst? If so, invite them to use Naylor’s collection as inspiration for their own set of visuals on foot-washing. Work together to decide how these will be used in worship.



LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

You’ll do some living worship in this service: washing one another’s feet. This is a vulnerable activity that requires humility and reminds us of the ways we are to serve one another and the world. If someone in worship has limitations or is uncomfortable with this activity, be sensitive. Offer an appropriate alternative such as washing the hands, offering a prayer for the person, or giving them the right to pass.

You’ll see the worship service we prepared is only about 45 minutes. You’ll need to pre-plan for this suggestion, but consider taking worshipers to a place of service such as a soup kitchen after worship. There, they can serve the world together. Make the connection between your service activity and the act of foot-washing.



MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

Consider a very simple worship space with a cross, palm leaves, and neutral or purple fabric. If simple isn't your style, consider recreating what you and worshipers might imagine the Upper Room to be.

You'll need one or more foot-washing stations. We suggest a minimum of two. It helps with time and creates more movement in the room. Each station will need the following:

- Towels or cloths for washing and drying
- Pitcher or small cup in the washing bowl
- 2 bowls or plastic tubs, one for washing and one for drying. (*The washing bowl should be filled with warm water and if you desire, a small amount of liquid soap. The drying bowl should be empty.*)

Read more about foot-washing below.

Washing one another's feet comes from John 13:1-17, Jesus' final meal with the disciples when he washed their feet. By doing this, Jesus reminded his disciples that the kingdom is about serving and loving one another. We perform this act of service in worship to remind ourselves of Jesus' example and words to love and serve as he has for us. You'll need to explain foot-washing to worshipers. Because this act requires vulnerability, this activity can cause anxiety or nervousness if not prepared well. Explain the stations, exactly what should be done, and consider modeling it with one worshiper. Finally, invite worshipers to serve one another by saying: You are invited to come to one of the stations where your feet will be washed by your sister or brother; then wash the feet of the one who comes behind you. Play music appropriate to service as worshipers wash feet.

Instructions to be given by leader

John 13:1-17 should be read in worship, or right before foot-washing. Then say:

Following the way of Christ, we are going to wash one another's feet. This is a vulnerable activity that requires humility and reminds us of the ways we are to serve one another and the world.

Foot-washing asks us to forget about things like smelly feet, who is the greatest and who is the least. It invites us to think about how we give something to others and in turn, receive something from them.

Let me give instructions. As I give instructions, they will be modeled by (names of worshipers who will model for others):

Leave your shoes and socks at your seat, form a line, and sit down at a foot-washing station. Place your feet in the bowl of water and let the person in line behind you wash your feet.

To wash someone's feet, kneel down, take the pitcher, pour water on the person's feet, then dry them.

Offer an alternative to worshipers who may have limitations or who may be uncomfortable (this might include a female in stockings, an open wound or cast, etc.). You might say something like this:

If you have limitations or concerns with this activity, that's ok. Invite the person behind you to wash your hands or pray for you instead of washing your feet.



As you do this, keep an attitude of prayer for what God might do in you and through you as you serve and allow others to serve you. Brothers and sisters, let us serve one another as Christ has served us.

Play soft music as worshipers wash one another's feet. Close by singing together and praying together

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Here is a prayer of confession. It is formed around a prayer the Christian church has prayed for many centuries: "Lord have mercy. Christ, have mercy." If you use this prayer, be sure to speak the promise of forgiveness we've included at the end.

Merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart and mind and strength and soul.

(silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have not loved our neighbors as you have taught us.

(silence)

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We are indifferent to the saving grace of your word and life.

(silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Promise of Forgiveness

We have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Brothers and sisters, in Christ we are forgiven. Through him God abides with even us. To Christ be praise forever. Amen.

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SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Maundy Thursday // John 13:33-35; John 13:1-17 // Jesus' Final Meal

GATHERING IN SILENCE

Call worshipers together, then invite them to spend a few moments in silence. Project, read, or tell the story of Maundy Thursday. You can use this text:

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum" which means "command." This service calls us to remember the new commandment Jesus gave to the disciples in the Upper Room on the night of His arrest:

"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 love one another."

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One:** I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in
my mouth.
- All:** **My soul makes its boast in the
Lord; let the humble hear and
be glad.**
- One:** O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name
together.
- All:** **I sought the Lord, and he
answered me, and delivered me
from all my fears.**
- One:** O taste and see that the Lord is
good;
- All:** **Happy are those who take
refuge in him.**
- One:** What shall we return to the Lord
for all his bounty to us?
- All:** **We will lift up the cup of
salvation and call on the name
of the Lord; We will pay our
vows to the Lord in the
presence of all his people.**
- One:** I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another. Just as
I have loved you, you also should
love one another.
- All:** **In worship on this day, we**

**testify to God's love shown
perfectly in Christ, and we
recommit ourselves to love one
another as a community of
faith.**

SONG OF SERVICE

Come, All Christians Be Committed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful God, we have not loved
you with all our heart and mind
and strength and soul.

(Silence)

One: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

One: We have not loved our neighbors
as you have taught us.

(Silence)

One: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

One: We are indifferent to the saving
grace of your word and life.

(Silence)

One: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

We have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Brothers and sisters, in Christ we are forgiven. Through him, God abides with us. To Jesus Christ be praise forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:33-35

MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ask worshipers to think about those they can serve and how they can serve them. Invite them to pray a prayer out loud asking God to give them opportunities to serve in the days ahead. If you think worshipers might not do this, you might prompt them with prepared prayers on cards. You can pass these out before worship begins. End this time saying the Lord's Prayer together.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-17

SERVING ONE ANOTHER // WASHING THE DISCIPLE'S FEET

[You'll need to explain foot-washing to worshipers. Because this act requires vulnerability, this activity can cause anxiety or nervousness if not prepared well. Explain the stations, exactly what should be done, and consider modeling it with one worshiper. Then, invite worshipers to serve one another by saying:]

You are invited to come to one of the stations where your feet will be washed by your sister or brother; then wash the feet of the one who comes behind you.

[Play music appropriate to service as worshipers wash feet.]

SONG OF SERVICE

The Summons

INTO THE WORLD

[Take worshipers to a place of service where they can serve with each other. If you do this, give instructions. If this isn't possible, you might dismiss with words such as these:]

We leave this room and we join Jesus in the garden, in his trials, and at the cross.