



# Maundy Thursday

14th April 2022

United Zoom Service  
Purley and St Paul's URCs  
and South Croydon United Church

Online Worship for Purley and St Paul's URCs  
with South Croydon United Church

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88632946093?pwd=ZENNeWh4MDV2Yk9CKzJUVUx3cEdtQT09>

Meeting ID: 886 3294 6093 / Passcode: 659152

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## An Encounter with John 13: 1-35

### **Welcome** *(Russell)*

Welcome to folk from the 3 congregations. Brief explanation about the service. We ask you to remain 'on mute' unless you are speaking; there is a point in the service when we will ask you to turn off your video for a short time so please know where that button is on your screen. In planning we wanted to end in silence and 'disperse' quietly so we have provided space at the start for brief conversations and catch-up in random break-out rooms for about 5 minutes. We will then move into an encounter with John 13 as a way of reflecting on this holy evening.

## **Break-out Rooms** *(for about 5mins, as we are leaving in silence)*

### **Introduction** *(Russell)*

Great storytelling often involves interweaving different layers of a story. A recent reflection I was reading about the success of the Netflix series *the Crown* suggested that its success was partly due to the interweaving of the story of the reign of the Queen set against the backdrop of the story of post war Britain. Often the two stories met head on, for example, at the time of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Gospel writers all knew the power of storytelling. The story we tell this evening, based on John's Gospel, is on one level an intimate account of a few friends, who have lived and worked together for a couple of years, coming together for a meal and the recognition this is the last time they will be together, ever. On a different level this is the story, on a cosmic scale, of the struggle for freedom, for life, for light, for love.

We meet this evening, a few followers of Jesus, meeting in remembrance of him in the intimacy of this moment, even if we have to meet online rather than in person. In the broader picture we meet against the backdrop of a troubled world. We are all too well aware of the continuing impact of a global pandemic; there are concerns about the integrity of our political leaders; an environmental crisis; economic uncertainty; and, of course, the invasion of Ukraine. Our intimate gathering cannot and will not ignore the broader setting in which we meet.

Whilst much of this service will feel and be similar to the service we held last year on Maundy Thursday, it is very different, because the context is different. But, as last year, our hope and prayer is that in

quiet reflection, tonight becomes not just a retelling of the last supper, but an encounter that speaks to us today of God in the midst of the suffering of our world and a call to follow Jesus in love and self-giving for all.

**Reading: John 13: 1** - *(Russell)*

Our encounter begins with this verse:

*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.*

**Prayer** - *(Martin)*

God, we gather, as Jesus did with his disciples, to encounter you and your word.

Even though we gather in our own homes, your Spirit binds us, to encounter you together.

We come, bringing our world and all that humanity faces.

We come, bringing our own lives – our fears and joys.

We come to remember, to observe, to share, to treasure, to be together and to honour you and one another.

We come to feed on the bread of life and to raise up the cup of salvation.

You gather us, for we are one people.

You seek our fulness and offer new life.

You show us a way of hope and peace, of justice and reconciliation.

God, we gather, with Jesus and his disciples, to encounter you and your word. Amen.

**Music:** *Iryna Manyukina, filmed by her daughter, playing Chopin, nr. Kyiv*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDUdK5SYa7w>

**John 13: 2-4 – Sue Eardley, (St Paul's)**

*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.*

**Hymn/Song: 'Jesu, Jesu'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjFNpoEy8mY>

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbours we have  
from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.  
*Jesu, Jesu...*

Neighbours are rich and poor,  
varied in colour and race,  
neighbours are near us and far away.  
*Jesu, Jesu...*

These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all these are neighbours to us and you.  
*Jesu, Jesu...*

Loving puts us on our knees,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you.  
*Jesu, Jesu...*

Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you.  
*Jesu, Jesu...*

*Northern Ghanaian Song*

## **John 13: 5-11 – Jill Berry** (Purley)

*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."*

## **Pouring of Water - Jill Berry** (Purley)

### **John 13: 12-21a – (Angela Rolle, South Croydon United Church)**

*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.*

*I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, "The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me."*

*I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he.*

*Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."*

*After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit...*

## **Prayers of Intercession – (Fran Boto, St Paul's)**

Dear Lord

we are grateful for your clear example.

Give us the strength and the love

to serve, and to love all those friends and neighbours we have from you.

Be with all those who serve and care for others in foodbanks, in hospitals and care homes, in supermarkets, on refuse lorries, buses and trains, and all those who work to keep others safe in dangerous places, at sea and on land.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We know, Lord, that this is the world you love. Help us to support those who labour to keep others safe in times of war, or epidemic, or famine. Show us how we can take part in their struggles knowing that they are following your work of sacrificial service. In this time of dangerous climate change, help us to work alongside those who seek to preserve the beauty and diversity of your creation.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Inspire us to serve and care for those who disregard us or wish us ill.

Be with us when we feel hurt or betrayed

And show us how to forgive.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

When we let down those who love us  
Bring healing to us all, by showing how best to follow you.  
Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Be with the fellowships of all your people – particularly those in  
Ukraine and Russia, and show us how to honour them so that we  
honour you and the God who loves them.  
Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us. Amen**

**Music:**            *John Rutter – ‘A Prayer for Ukraine’*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJl3kVwI2-U>

### **John 13: 21b-27 – Roger Clugston (Purley)**

*Jesus declared,*

*"Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me."*

*The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he  
was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus  
loved—was reclining next to him;*

*Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom  
he was speaking.*

*So, while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is  
it?"*

*Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of  
bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So, when he had  
dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon  
Iscaiot.*

*After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him.  
Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do."*

## **Prayers of Confession** – *(Martin)*

### ***Eating Bread***

The image of a friendly convivial meal cannot be found in John's words. Instead, Jesus shares bread to indicate who is to betray him. This is truly bread shared as symbol of his broken body, broken spirit, broken trust.

Before we break bread, we acknowledge the brokenness around us, as we pray:

God of compassion,  
as we come to accept your broken bread,  
we bring our sorrow and our regret;  
for the times when we've caused hurt and pain,  
for the times we may have neglected to care or act,  
for the opportunities and skills we have wasted  
and for the times when we have doubted and betrayed your love for us.

In the silence, we open ourselves to you  
and ask for forgiveness. *(silence)*

God of life and love,  
as we accept this broken bread and eat together,  
as we dwell in the dark and feel the crushing weight of shame  
we turn to your cross and you welcome us;  
we come as we are and you make us whole;  
we are in awe of the mystery of this moment.  
Thank you for the forgiveness we find in you.  
Teach us to forgive others and ourselves  
and keep us living as your people  
that the world may know your name.

As Jesus gives bread, we eat together...

**John 13: 28-30 - (Cathy Heath, St Paul's)**

*Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.  
Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse,  
Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or,  
that he should give something to the poor.  
So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went  
out. And it was night.*

**Silence** (those taking part stop sharing screens – to black)

**John 13: 31-34a – (Felicity Harris, Purley)**

*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.*

**Drinking Wine – (Russell)**

John does not mention them drinking wine together. But they were sharing a meal so it would have been very normal for them to drink wine together, particular at this festival meal.

The cup of wine of the last supper has become for us a sign of the new covenant that Jesus speaks of here. Before we drink wine together let us pray.

O God, vineyard owner, wine maker,  
we give you thanks and praise.

You worked the world into being,  
instilled all creation with life,  
and shaped us as your people.

In Jesus we see the true vine and the good fruit of the vine.  
You offer a new covenant as you rejoice with all who rejoice  
weep with those who weep  
heal the broken  
and quench our thirst for justice and mercy.

For all you are, we offer our thanks and praise.  
O present Spirit,  
as we face the challenge of Good Friday  
help us recognize the broken Christ  
in the pouring of and drinking of wine.  
Bring hope and joy with this wine.  
Make us into a community of peace and protest  
strengthened by your cup and challenged by your new covenant.  
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

**Hymn/Song:**            **'Brother, sister, let me serve you'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQaOErUUjm8>

*Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey,  
And companions on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
'till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven,  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant too.*

*Words: Richard Gillard*

### **John 13: 34b-35 – (Eleanor Day, SCUC)**

*Jesus said: "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."*

### **Sending out – (Martin)**

On this holy night,  
having shared together,  
may the words of this account,  
its broken betrayal and command to love,  
dwell deeply in our hearts.

Tomorrow we will watch love put on trial;  
we will join the betrayal with shouts of 'crucify',  
we will walk with Jesus the path of pain  
and linger at the foot of his cross.

My friends, we leave in peace,  
with love in our eyes,  
and the knowledge that God meets us in the midst of our suffering.

May we go our way to follow Jesus in love, with self-giving for all.  
Amen

*As the music plays, we leave in our own time...*