**Maundy Thursday Reflection 1.4.2021**

**Welcome**

Let us pray:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross**

**You have redeemed the world**

Heavenly Father, as we prepare to journey with Jesus to the last supper,

on to Gethsemane and ultimately to the cross,

prepare our hearts that we might hear the story of your loving redemption afresh.

On this night we remember

how Jesus took the role of a humble servant,

washing his friend’s feet

to prepare them for what was about to happen.

In doing so, Jesus demonstrated

how he was to become a servant to the whole world on the cross.

Lord, help us to enter fully into the darkness of the coming days,

not running from it,

but sitting in all its discomfort,

so that we will appreciate more deeply

the joy and light that Sunday brings.

**Amen**

**Song – Here is Love**

On the mount of crucifixion

Fountains opened deep and wide

Through the floodgates of God's mercy

Flowed a vast and gracious tide

Grace and love like mighty rivers

Poured incessant from above

And heaven's peace and perfect justice

Kissed a guilty world in love

Here is love vast as the ocean

Loving kindness as the flood

When the Prince of life our ransom

Shed for us his precious blood

Who his love will not remember

Who can cease to sing his praise

He can never be forgotten

Throughout heaven's eternal days

**Bible Reading – John 13:1-11**

13 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.

2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 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.

 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, ‘Lord, are you going to wash my feet?’ 7 Jesus answered, ‘You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’ 8 Peter said to him, ‘You will never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered, ‘Unless I 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, ‘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.’ 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’

**Reflection**

**Prayers**

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear

and faced the agony of your impending death:

be with those who share that agony

and face death unwillingly this day.

You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity:

give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing.

to you, Jesus, who sweated blood

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

**Holy God**

**Holy and strong**

**Holy and immortal,**

**Have mercy upon us.**

Let us pray for the coming of God’s Kingdom in the words our saviour taught 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

Most merciful God,

Who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God now and forever.

**Amen**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,**

**because by your holy cross**

**you have redeemed the world.**

Christ was manifested in the body,

vindicated in the spirit,

seen by angels,

proclaimed among the nations

believed in throughout the world,

glorified in high heaven.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,**

**because by your holy cross**

**you have redeemed the world.**

May God bless us,

that in us may be found love and humility,

obedience and thanksgiving,

discipline, gentleness and peace

**Amen**

**The Gospel of the Watch** Luke: 22:31-62

At the end:

Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace

*The service concludes in darkness and silence.*

Liturgy includes material from ‘Walking the way of the cross’ by Stephen Cottrell, Paula Gooder & Philip North published by Church House Publishing 2019