

# MIDHURST & LIPHOOK METHODIST CHURCHES

9 APRIL 2020

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER

AND

## GETHSEMANE REFLECTION



*When you eat your last meal of Maundy Thursday have this sheet with you and some bread and a glass of wine, or juice, or squash. It doesn't matter about the flavour(!) or the colour(!) though grape juice or something that is 'red' in colour makes a more obvious link.*

**BEFORE YOU EAT** *sing or read through the following hymn.*

**HYMN SF 594:      *Lord Jesus Christ***

- |   |   |
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| <p>1    Lord Jesus Christ,<br/>      you have come to us,<br/>      you are one with us,<br/>      Mary's Son ;<br/>      cleansing our souls from all their sin,<br/>      pouring your love and goodness in ;<br/>      Jesus, our love for you we sing,<br/>      living Lord.</p> <p>2    Lord Jesus Christ,<br/>      now and every day,<br/>      teach us how to pray,<br/>      Son of God.<br/>      You have commanded us to do<br/>      this, in remembrance, Lord, of you ;<br/>      into our lives your power breaks through,<br/>      living Lord.</p> | <p>3    Lord Jesus Christ,<br/>      you have come to us,<br/>      born as one of us,<br/>      Mary's Son ;<br/>      led out to die on Calvary,<br/>      risen from death to set us free ;<br/>      living Lord Jesus, help us see<br/>      you are Lord.</p> <p>4    Lord Jesus Christ,<br/>      we would come to you,<br/>      live our lives for you,<br/>      Son of God.<br/>      All your commands we know are true ;<br/>      your many gifts will make us new ;<br/>      into our lives your power breaks through,<br/>      living Lord.</p> |
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Patrick Appleford (b. 1925)

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**WHILE YOU EAT**, read the following passage. This is Matthew's account of the Last Supper:

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, 'My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples'.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:17-30

When you've read that, and before you finish your meal, take the bread that you have. Break it and eat it. As you eat it, pray the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, I/we thank you for your life, ministry, death and resurrection, and especially for this special means of remembering you.

We cannot gather together to share supper and memories this year but I/we pray that as we eat and drink separated by distance, we would know your presence with us by your Spirit.

As we take, break and eat bread we pray that we would know that, although separated, we are your body on earth and in our communities.

Amen.

**WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED EATING**, take the glass of wine/juice/squash and pray the following prayer before you drink:

Lord Jesus, I/we thank you for your life, ministry, death and resurrection, and especially for this special means of remembering you.

The wine at communion connects us with the life and freedom of God's people since the exodus from Egypt. I/we pray that as I/we drink now we will know ourselves to be included in the new covenant in which you promise new life to your people through your death and resurrection.

We pray in your name and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

When you have drunk the wine/juice/squash read or sing the following song:

**SONG SF 586:        *Here is bread, here is wine***

- 1 Here is bread, here is wine,  
Christ is with us — he is with us ;  
break the bread, drink the wine —  
Christ is with us here.
- 2 Here is grace, here is peace,  
Christ is with us — he is with us ;  
know his grace, find his peace —  
feast on Jesus here.

*in this moment, by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here.*

- 3 Here we are, joined in one,  
Christ is with us — he is with us ;  
we'll proclaim, till he comes —  
Jesus crucified.

*Refrain*

*In this bread there is healing,  
in this cup there's life for ever ;*

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At 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday evening the following reflection will be on Facebook live on the Midhurst Methodist Church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pg/midhurstmethodist/videos>) and can be found there after that if you eat later.

**GETHSEMANE REFLECTION**

*After you've eaten, move away from the table, perhaps light a candle on a table near you and read Matthew's account of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane:*

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again, he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'



Matthew 26:36-46

**REFLECTION**

Betrayal. Have you ever felt betrayed?

Perhaps someone you trusted with a secret betrayed you by sharing it with someone else.

Perhaps as a child someone told on you when you'd done something naughty that you thought you'd got away with.

Perhaps someone in authority or with a responsibility abused that position.

Perhaps a partner betrayed you by developing a relationship with someone else.

Jesus knew he was about to be betrayed.

On the one hand it looks like any human betrayal we may have experienced. Perhaps clearly more serious than your hiding place being given away in a game of hide and seek. But similar to the whereabouts of someone wanted by a military dictatorship being given away by an infiltrator.

Jesus is under pressure, knowing he is going to be betrayed. But he doesn't go into hiding; he goes where he habitually went because there's something else that he knows as well.

He knows this is part of the plan; this is the way his mission is to work out; it has to come to a crisis point and Passover is the time for it. He knows that in the next few hours he will accomplish spiritually for everyone what Passover accomplished for the Israelites in Egypt.

He knows what it's all about

And he knows that it won't be easy and it will be painful and the very essence of his being as Son of God will be tested in a way that would make the devil's tests of priorities and publicity stunts and political shortcuts look easy.

And so he prays.

It's a very human prayer: 'if it is possible, let this cup pass from me'; 'if there is any way out, I'll take it'.

But there's something else that he knows. Jesus knows that his first priority is what God wants; whatever pressure he's under, however stressful it is, whatever danger he's in, he knows that what he's here for is to accomplish what only God can do in him.

So there's more to his prayer than a desire to find a way of avoiding the pain.

'... yet not what I want but what you want.'

Let's remember what he means by 'what you want'.

He doesn't mean that God wants him to suffer, to be betrayed, deserted, tried by a kangaroo court, flogged and put to death. That is the way it was accomplished but it was not 'what God wanted'.

What God wanted was what was finally accomplished through all of that, what Jesus' death was all about.

What God wanted was a human being fully in his image acting in obedience to make it possible for all of us to come back to the intimate fellowship with him that we were created for.

Spoiler alert here for the rest of the weekend:

Tomorrow – Good Friday – and Sunday – Easter Day – are all about how that comes about.

For now, we pause in the garden, we wait, we acknowledge that we are under pressure, that we have fears and uncertainties about how things will turn out.

We pray – if it is possible don't let us be tested by suffering, illness, loss of friends and loved ones...

If it is possible

Let us also have courage to pray: yet not what we want – let that come second to the accomplishment of your purposes. Whatever we go through, may we be demonstrate your presence, your love, the coming of your Kingdom and the dawn of the new creation.

Amen.

*Keep a few moments' silence. Or, if you're watching the video, or listening to the audio, pause it and keep a little longer. Then end in prayer.*

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the courage to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Remember to blow out the candle if you've lit one.*

*Tomorrow there will be a Facebook live Reflection for Good Friday at 10am and a paper version also available.*