

# St Barbara's Church Earlsdon



## Maundy Thursday Service

### A very warm welcome to our Maundy Thursday Service.

During the service, please join in the words in **bold**.

Maundy Thursday\* is a special day for the church. It is the day when we remember the events of Jesus' final evening before his death. There are a number of important elements to this evening, that are picked up during the course of this service.

**The Gathering.** Just as the room was prepared to celebrate the special Passover meal Jesus was to eat with the disciples, so we prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

**The Washing of Feet.** Before the meal Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, giving them an example of humility, love and service. This evening we have the opportunity to place ourselves in that story. You may like to have a bowl of water and towel alongside you to symbolise this act.

**The Passover Meal.** This meal was the highlight of the Jewish religious year, the celebration of God's deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt. As Jesus and his disciples shared the meal, they gave thanks to God. We will re-live together the words and actions of that special meal.

**The Lord's Supper.** But Jesus takes the Passover Meal and gives it new meaning—he becomes the sacrifice through which we are all free. Tonight we remember the Last Supper, and Jesus' act of love and sacrifice.

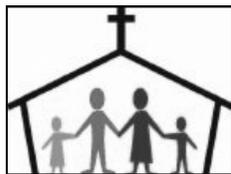
**The Watch.** After the meal, Jesus went out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and find strength in God for the trials ahead. There will be no formal ending to the service. Instead you are invited to continue in prayer for as long as you wish, and then finish when you are ready.

We pray that you will know God's blessing and presence this evening.

\* *Maundy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning "commandment", the word Jesus used on the final evening before his death: "A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34)

# The Gathering

## THE GREETING



Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.”

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you

**All and also with you.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*We sit for the NOTICES and the INTRODUCTION to the service.*

*We sit for a time of CONFESSION, a time when we acknowledge our failings before God and ask and receive his forgiveness.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“If you love me, keep my commandments.”

“Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.”

Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,  
and ask him to cleanse us.

*Silence is kept.*

Have mercy on us, O God,  
in your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy**

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;  
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy**

May the Father forgive *us*  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen *us*  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all *our* days.

**All Amen.**

*We hear our first BIBLE READING—the preparation of the upper room.*

*The TABLE is prepared.*

*The COLLECT, the church’s special prayer for today, is prayed.*

God our Father,  
you have invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen**

# The Washing of Feet



We hear our second **BIBLE READING**—Jesus washes his disciples' feet.

We reflect on this reading.

If you are sharing this service with others, you may like to wash their hands or feet, and be washed in return. If by yourself, you may like to wash your hands or feet and imagine Christ doing it for you.

The washing of hands or feet ends with this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**



# The Passover Meal

We hear our third **BIBLE READING**—the story of the Passover.

A candle is lit.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have lamps of fire for light.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

The bread is lifted up.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to share,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

The wine is lifted up.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to drink,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

The youngest person asks the Passover question.

**Question** Why is this night different from all other nights?

**Answer** It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he slew the Egyptians but spared our houses.

**Question** Why do we eat bitter herbs? And why is this water salty?

**Answer** We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, and our lives were bitter with hard service. We wept salt tears in our bondage. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; and the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes.

**Question** Why do we eat a paste of apples?

**Answer** We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, we were afflicted with heavy burdens, with mortar and brick for building. The paste signifies the mortar we used in our time of bondage. But by the strength of his hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land which he swore to give to our fathers.

**All Lord God, you brought us out  
from slavery to freedom;  
from sorrow to joy;  
from mourning to gladness;  
from darkness to great light;  
from servitude to redemption.**

**This is our faith.  
Blessed is the name of the Lord**

*We reflect on the Passover Meal.*

## The Lord's Supper

*We hear our fourth Bible Reading—Jesus breaks  
bread.*



*We share the PEACE together.*

Jesus says: "Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
neither let them be afraid."

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

*We share with one another a sign of peace.*

## The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER.

At the eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord.  
We know that it was not only our ancestors,  
but we who were redeemed  
and brought forth from bondage to freedom,  
from mourning to feasting.  
We know that as he was with them in the upper room  
so our Lord is here with us now.

**All Until the kingdom of God comes  
let us celebrate this feast.**

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you thanks,  
Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For on this night he girded himself with a towel  
and, taking the form of a servant,  
washed the feet of his disciples.  
He gave us a new commandment  
that we should love one another as he has loved us.  
Knowing that his hour had come,  
in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples  
to be a memorial of his passion,  
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,  
and feast with him in his kingdom.  
Therefore earth unites with heaven  
to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with angels and archangels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died  
he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all  
upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**All Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All 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.**

### **BREAKING of THE BREAD**

*The president BREAKS THE BREAD, and says:*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup  
**All we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**All** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All** Lord I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament  
you have given us the memorial of your passion:  
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and  
blood  
that we may know within ourselves  
and show forth in our lives  
the fruit of your redemption,  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

## The Watch

*You may like to switch off all the lights in your room  
and have a solitary candle burning.*

*The Watch is introduced.*

*We **sit** to hear our final Bible Reading—Jesus in the Garden of Geth-  
semane.*

*Please feel free to remain for as long as you want in prayer with Christ.  
You might also want to meditate on the following readings:*

Matthew 26:30-75

Mark 14:26-72

Luke 22:31-62

**“Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace.”**

