

# A Reflective Service for Maundy Thursday



**St Laurence Church, Downton**

**1 April 2021**

# Preparation

## Call to Worship

Lord, this is love.  
Not that you spoke words of comfort,  
walked with the unclean and unloved,  
shared wisdom, bread and wine,  
brought healing into lives and challenged the status quo.

**This is love.**

This is love.  
That you spoke the word of God,  
walked a painful road to the Cross,  
shared living water, bread of life,  
brought Salvation to the world and died for the sake of all.

**This is love.**

This is love.  
It is a seed sown in the ground,  
which germinates, blossoms, and spreads.

**This is love. Amen.**

*The Team Rector introduces the service*

Hymn: My song is love unknown  
(*St Martin's Voices*)

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me;  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.

O who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know:  
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King:  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save,  
the Prince of life they slay,  
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King!  
Never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

*Samuel Crossman (1623-1683)*

### **Confession:**

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.

**Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting your sacrifice  
and for thinking that your grace is cheap.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for using the cross as a trinket,  
forgetting the agony it represents.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for taking our worship for granted,  
forgetting the struggle that has assured its freedom.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for being calloused to human cruelty,  
forgetting that every victim is a creature of God.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for being nonchalant about injustice,  
forgetting that it still nails innocence to the cross.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for thinking that sacrifice is obsolete, forgetting that we still contend against the powers of darkness.**

**Receive our prayers offered in all humility, as we remember and honour Christ our Lord who prays for us still. Amen.**

*Life in Liturgy*

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

**Response:**

Messiah I come,  
Brought to my knees by astonishing grace.  
In the presence of such humility  
From one so great  
What can I do but kneel and praise?

Messiah I come,  
Challenged to bow to the King who kneels.  
I want to pour out mercy and bring tender healing,  
But I am proud, judgmental, and self-absorbed  
And you are the only one  
who can lead me to first-becoming-last greatness.

I would wash and serve, wash and love,  
Like you do.  
But first Lord Jesus,  
Wash my feet, cleanse my heart  
Till I am - like you,  
Humble and ready on my knees. **Amen.**

*Daily Meditations and Response prayers for Holy Week - Nigel Varndell*

# *The Liturgy of the Word*

Reading:

John 13:1-17,31b-35

*After the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Music: A New Commandment - Richard Shephard  
(St Martin's Voices)

## *Prayers*

*We are led in a time of prayerful meditation based on Philippians 2*

*The Lord's Prayer is said:*

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## *Conclusion*

### The Collect

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 mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### Blessing:

God the Father,  
who has given to his Son  
the name above every name,  
strengthen you  
to proclaim Christ as Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you,  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

A new commandment I give to you,  
**that you love one another, as I have loved you.**

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
**if you have love for one another.**

*John 13:34-35*

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**