**Thursday, 9 April 2020 Maundy Thursday**

Good evening, thank you for joining me this Maundy Thursday evening as we replace our usual Agape meal with prayers and readings. There are two Taizé songs which you will find in the text that accompanies this service. You may wish to join me in lighting a candle as a sign of God’s presence with us.

In the name of the Father…

We begin by bringing ourselves into God’s presence, setting aside any worries, fears or anxiety. You may wish to pause the video to play the song at this point

Taize chant “Il n'est pas de plus grand amour”*(Maundy Thursday responsory)*(John 15,13)

<https://youtu.be/4SXSVkIOK88>

Il n'est pas de plus grand amour que de donner sa vie pour ceux qu'on aime.

No one can have a greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.

Veće ljubavi nitko nema od ove: da tko život svoj položi za svoje prijatelje.

Maiorem hac dilectionem nemo habet, ut animam suam quis ponat pro amicis suis.

No hay amor más grande que dar la vida por los amigos.

Nessuno ha un amore più grande di questo: dare la vita per i propri amici.

人若為自己的朋友捨掉性命，再沒有比這更大的愛情了。

Maundy Thursday marks a new beginning, the beginning of the end. From this point onwards our Christian worship is a continuum through to Easter morning. After this service you may wish to observe Watch for at least an hour.

**Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Let your ways be known upon earth  
**All your saving power among the nations.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief your only Son was lifted up that he might draw the whole world to himself. May we walk this day in the way of the cross and always be ready to share its weight, declaring your love for all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Blessed be God for ever**.

Psalm 88 is slowly read with the response:

**Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God**.

Lord, you are the God who saves me;  
    day and night I cry out to you.

2May my prayer come before you;  
    turn your ear to my cry.

3I am overwhelmed with troubles  
    and my life draws near to death.

4I am counted among those who go down to the pit;  
    I am like one without strength.

5I am set apart with the dead,  
    like the slain who lie in the grave,  
whom you remember no more,  
    who are cut off from your care.

6You have put me in the lowest pit,  
    in the darkest depths.

7Your wrath lies heavily on me;  
   you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.

8You have taken from me my closest friends  
    and have made me repulsive to them.  
I am confined and cannot escape;

9my eyes are dim with grief

I call to you, Lord, every day;  
    I spread out my hands to you.

10Do you show your wonders to the dead?  
    Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

11Is your love declared in the grave,  
    your faithfulness in Destruction?

12Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,  
    or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

13But I cry to you for help, Lord;  
    in the morning my prayer comes before you.

14Why, Lord, do you reject me  
    and hide your face from me?

15From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;  
    I have borne your terrors and am in despair.

16Your wrath has swept over me;  
    your terrors have destroyed me.

17All day long they surround me like a flood;  
    they have completely engulfed me.  
18You have taken from me friend and neighbour—  
    darkness is my closest friend.

**Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God**.

*Silence is kept*

**The Gospel John 13:1-15**

**13**It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

**2**The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3**Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4**so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5**After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**6**He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

**7**Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

**8**“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

**9**“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

**10**Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” **11**For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

**12**When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. **13**“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14**Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. **15**I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

*Silence is kept*

*Responsory*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;  
**All by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**Christ committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips.  
**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
**All By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**  
By his wounds you have been healed.  
All **We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;  
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.** cf 1 Peter 2

**Prayers**

*Silent Prayer*  
With faith and love and in union with Christ,  
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,  
for whom your Son laid down his life:

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,  
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name’s sake,  
and deliver them from evil:

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,  
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:

Bring comfort to the dying,  
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:

Give rest to the departed  
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*silence is kept.*

*The Collect of the day is said*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
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 for ever.   
*All Amen.*

*The Lord’s Prayer is said*

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

**All 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.**

As we close let me remind you to go to our website for Good Friday reflections and of course on Easter morning to celebrate together the resurrection, but for now we remain in the garden of Gethsemane as we watch and pray with Jesus

**The Conclusion**

You may wish to read the Watch Gospel quietly before blowing out your candle or going to sleep.

**When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, ‘If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.’ He said to his disciples, ‘How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.’**

#Stay home, stay safe, stay praying

**Taizé chant: Stay with me, watch and pray**

<https://youtu.be/zkivkORaeJA>