

Maundy Thursday April 9th, 2020



Opening

This is the day that Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the day that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

This is the day that Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his Holy Sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

Collect

O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left to us this meal of bread and wine in which we share his body and his blood. May we who celebrate this sign of his great love show in our lives the fruits of his redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

READINGS

Exodus 12:1-4,(5-10),11-14

Psalm 116:1-2,12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17,31b-35

REFLECTIONS

Reflection Maundy Thursday by Abbot Andrew Marr

Posted on [March 26, 2013](#)



At the abbey where I live, I preach at the Maundy Thursday liturgy and the Easter Vigil. I do not preach on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, the two liturgies where we chant the Passion. The Passion is long enough without added sermons and the Passion speaks for itself. That is, it speaks for itself as long as we don't add things it does not say that undermine what the Passion *does* say.

To belabor what should be the obvious, the Passion Story tells us what human beings chose to do. Jesus chose to drive the money changers from the temple and teach the people there. The Jewish authorities chose to plot to have Jesus arrested and handed over to the Roman authorities. Judas chose to betray Jesus, thus facilitating the arrest and handing over. Pilate, to varying degrees in the four Gospels, vacillated but in the end chose to sentence Jesus to crucifixion. Meanwhile, the people who had cheered Jesus upon entering Jerusalem ended up crying for his crucifixion. The Roman centurions nailed Jesus to the cross where he died. The Passion narratives say nothing to suggest that anything that was done to Jesus, from the arrest to harassment and flogging to nailing him to the cross was in any way the will of God.

In all this, *God does not do anything*. Why do I bother to make a big point of this? The reason is that many Christians have suggested that God positively willed the sacrifice of Jesus for some cosmic purpose, usually because God was upset with wayward humans and was somehow incapable of forgiving humans unless *somebody* took the punishment for human sin. If Jesus, innocent of sin, should take the punishment, well and good. Well, *not* well and good. What kind of god demands punishment and doesn't care who gets punished as long as *somebody* does? The Passion Story never says anything of the kind.

If God did not will Jesus' violent death, what *did* God will? What *was* God's plan? Jesus understood the heavenly Father's plan to be that he Jesus knew that if he defeated Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate with force would only keep the world forever embroiled in retaliatory violence. The only way to avoid that was to gather people peacefully no matter the outcome, even if it meant death.

But Death, much as it was the plan of humans, was not God's plan as a group of women found out early in the morning on the first day of the week.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please pray for Our Bishop Dr. Todd Townshend, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda, our Primate, Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop and Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia Rev. Kendall Reimer-Johnston and the **Brant Regional Ministry**, and all lay and clergy leaders.

We ask your prayers for parishioners and friends in need of God's healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Andrea P., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Kathleen C-S., Bill Mc., Dwayne M, and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M. Jerry M., Diane H., Delores B., Mark A and Hazel A. and baby Maeve A. and anyone known to you.

Remember our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes: June, Shirley, Iris, Everett, Julie, David, John, Anna, and Ron

A Prayer for Use During a Time of Pandemic

Loving God, whose peace passes all our understanding; as we face this present pandemic, and experience fear and anxiety, may we hear your voice, bringing calm to the storms of our time. Strengthen those who work to limit the spread of infection, and those who seek to care for the sick, and keep us mindful of those most vulnerable. May we shape our living to protect one another, and may our changing habits, practices and sacrifices, be for the greater love of our community and all your people. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others Amen

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen

CLOSING PRAYER

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment on our hearts; give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This week is the Holiest Week of the Christian Church.

You will notice that we will walk this week from the Palms to the Cross, to the Resurrection. If you were looking for Passion Sunday, the full readings and prayers will be on Good Friday. We will journey together. Many Blessings, Rick+

Please watch for special devotions for Good Friday.

At this extraordinary time if you are experiencing difficulties with the necessities of life please contact Archdeacon Rick or Anne at the addresses and telephones below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Archdeacon Rick Jones can be contacted by email rickplus@gmail.com or by phone @ 905 537 0324

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lbbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page