

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY — REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER**

**Preparations:** Make room in the center of your table and arrange:

a lit candle

a plate with bread on it (can be a whole loaf, a slice, a muffin, a cracker, whatever you have!)

a bowl with grapes or a cup of grape juice/wine for each person at the table

a bar of soap or a soap dispenser

*\* make imaginative quarantine substitutions for all of the above, as needed. Please don't go shopping! You can download a candle app on your phone, draw a picture of a candle, or substitute a different fruit or juice.*

**At the beginning of the meal:**

Read "Blessing in the Chaos," by Jan Richardson (from *The Cure for Sorrow*)

To all that is chaotic in you, let there come silence. Let there be a calming of the clamoring, a stilling of the voices that have laid their claim on you, that have made their home in you,	that go with you even to the holy places but will not let you rest, will not let you hear your life with wholeness or feel the grace that fashioned you.	Let what distracts you cease. Let what divides you cease. Let there come an end to what diminishes and demeans, and let depart all that keeps you in its cage.	Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find the peace you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm.
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Tonight we who follow Christ gather across the world to remember the night that Jesus shared a last meal with his disciples, instituted the ritual of communion, and washed the disciples' feet. Here in Lancaster, fellow CMCLers are also gathered in our homes.

Read Luke 22:7-13

**Enjoy your meal. Consider these prompts for silent reflection or conversation:**

1. Reflect back to past meals and moments around table. What meals have been memorable? What gatherings made you feel welcomed? Have you ever had a memorable Communion experience? What made it memorable?
2. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus fed and shared a meal with all of his disciples, even Judas who would soon betray him? What does that teach us about God?
3. Jesus gives thanks for the bread before breaking it. What things do you give thanks for in your life?
4. Food is a common love language. Think back to a time when someone offered or prepared food for you as a sign of love. Do you think that Jesus was trying to express his love for his disciples in this last meal? How does that layer add to the story?

prompts from [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

## Communion

1. Read Luke 22:14-20 — at the appropriate places in the story, you may break the bread and lift up the grapes/wine/juice on your own table.
2. Pass the plate with bread around the table. Once each person is served, say together: “The Bread of Life. Jesus, we remember you.” Eat your bite of bread together.
3. Place a grape or cup of juice or wine in front of each person. As you lift your grape or your glass, say together, “The cup of the new covenant.” Drink/eat together.
4. And now, in Jesus’ words: “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)

## Hand washing

Read John 13:1-15

*Footwashing* is what is usually celebrated on Maundy Thursday. If you would like to practice foot washing, you may. However, this year we invite you to celebrate *handwashing*. This year, every human being across the globe is being asked to practice scrupulous handwashing as a ritual of love — to protect the most vulnerable among us, and to protect the healthcare workers and “essential” workers who must break isolation to keep essential goods and services available as we attempt to stem the tide of the coronavirus. So, we invite you to celebrate handwashing tonight.

1. Hold your hands in front of you, palms up. It is through these hands that we know the world. It is with these hands that we clean our homes and our bodies. It is with these hands that we touch our food, our phones, our friends, our family. In this season of looking at our own hands and the hands of others, with fear for what we may unknowingly pass or receive — we remember the gift of our hands. All the caring they have done, all the carrying they have done.
2. Hold your own hands together or reach to either side and hold the hand of those beside you.
3. Sing these words to the tune of “Happy Birthday to You” — vs 1: *We wash our hands for the world* (4x), and vs 2: *We wash our hands with great love* (4x) (the recommended length of time for thorough handwashing)
4. Take turns going to the nearest sink to thoroughly wash your hands. During this time, those who remain at the table will remain silent. Notice the time that is being taken. Name, silently or out loud, all those who most need the protection of our isolation and handwashing.
5. Sing the handwashing song in #3 one more time.

## Closing Prayer:

With this meal, this communion, this handwashing, we pray that our hands and hearts are strengthened for the work that lies ahead. We pray that we are compassionate to human need, tender and strong in our care for one another, genuine in our friendships, faithful to our God. For all who have shared this evening, be they near or far: be upheld and comforted by the assurance of God’s constant presence at your side and of God’s healing strength in your hands.

Adapted from *Blessing of the Hands*, Wyoming Medical Center