

# First Congregational Church of Western Springs

## Maundy Thursday: Home Worship for Families of All Ages

*Read through the whole service once before beginning. Create a sense of sacred space by lighting a candle and clearing away any distractions. Share the leadership of the service amongst all of the readers in your family. If anything included in the service does not work for your family, simply leave it out and move on to the next section.*

### **Call to worship**

This is the night that Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room. This is the night that Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do for others as he has done for us. This is the night that Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another. This is the night that Jesus gave us a holy meal, that we might remember him when we eat the bread and drink the cup.

### **Gathering Prayer**

God of love,  
We are here, and we know you are here, too.  
Open our hearts and minds that we might grow  
In faith, hope, and understanding.  
Give us the courage to walk with Jesus,  
on this night and always.  
Amen.

### **Tracing our Feet**

In the gospels, Jesus says to the Disciples, "Follow me." We are disciples, too, and we are invited to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, learning from him and following in his ways of love and grace. We will remember our call to follow Jesus in Jesus footsteps by tracing our feet with pencil on paper.

### **Confessing our Sin**

We confess our sins to God in prayer, not because God wants us to feel guilt and shame, but because God wants us to know forgiveness and freedom. Especially in this challenging time, when we are feeling the loss of the usual rhythm and pattern of our lives, it is easy to take our frustrations out on our family members. We will pause for a moment to consider the ways we have failed to love God and love one another, and then join in this heartfelt prayer.

*God of love, We are sorry for the things that we have done that are wrong in your eyes. We are also sorry for all the things we should have done but we didn't do. Please forgive us, and help us to forgive one another. Amen.*

Thanks be to God, we are fully forgiven!

### **Reading from John 13, Common English Bible (CEB)**

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing....

After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

### **Washing our Feet**

Jesus washed the disciples feet, and asked us to do the same.

We do this as a symbol of loving one another by serving one another.

(Collect one washcloth for each member of your family, a small bowl of warm water, and an empty bowl for used washcloths.)

### **Lord's Prayer**

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us into temptation, and deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### **Sharing a Meal Together**

Eat a meal or a snack together, remembering that when Jesus taught the disciples to remember him through the eating of bread and the sharing of the cup, he did so during the sharing of a meal.

### **Prayer After Dinner**

Gracious God, give us the courage to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Give us the grace to forgive as we have been forgiven. Give us the strength to love and serve one another.

Amen.