



Words for the Way

An online Lent Course for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Prune

Thursday 6 April – Maundy Thursday



Window in Christ Church in Korntal - Footwashing, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55035> [retrieved April 5, 2023]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Glasfenster_Fu%C3%9Fwaschung_Korntal_Christuskirche.jpg.

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

In John 15:2 we read the words "[The Father] removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." Pruning can be difficult, sometimes cutting back more than expected in order to allow new growth, new branches, new options. Maundy Thursday is a day of contrasts, a day we remember the institution of Eucharist, The Lord's Supper and we end the day watching and praying with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. As we reach the start of the Triduum what are you challenged to prune from your life?

The Collect for Thursday of Holy Week

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. Amen.

Maundy Thursday Sonnet by Malcolm Guite

Here is the source of every sacrament,
The all-transforming presence of the Lord,
Replenishing our every element
Remaking us in his creative Word.
For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,
The air delights to bear his Spirit's speech,
The fire dances where the candles shine,
The waters cleanse us with His gentle touch.
And here He shows the full extent of love
To us whose love is always incomplete,
In vain we search the heavens high above,
The God of love is kneeling at our feet.
Though we betray Him, though it is the night.
He meets us here and loves us into light.

To Listen

Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo, one version is by Voces8

Jazz Missa Brevis: Agnus Dei by Will Todd

These and other music mentioned in these reflections can be found in a playlist at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/72omFXFljUHKiHcvk9OYv4?si=c33294da79674b98>



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The word for each day is taken from Trevor Hudson's *40 words for 40 days Pauses for Lent*.