

L: Take away the discomfort we feel because of our failure to honor our own values

P: and cleanse us as you kneel at our feet.

L: Every lesson about love we have not learned,

P: every heavenly value we have not grasped,

L: every truth of your realm we have ignored.

P: Wash away hesitation as we accept your love. Amen

READ: Matthew 26:36-45 – In Gethsemane

RESPONSE: *And they'll know we are Christians By our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians*

READ: Matthew 26:47-56 – The Betrayal and Arrest

HYMN VU#436 - **Abide with Me (1, 3, 5)**

LIVING IN THE SHADOWS *(Seven lighted candles wait on the Table)*

God, in anguish, we behold you and walk with you, through, on, into the shadows.

A candle is extinguished

God, our Friend, hold our hand, as we, walk through, on, into the world's shadows.

A candle is extinguished

God of passion, may we have the courage to stay awake, as you pray all alone, into the night.

A candle is extinguished

God of compassionate love, the world conspires against you and turns its back on your gift of redemption.

A candle is extinguished

God who answers prayer, kneel with us as we, too, pray into our nights, as forces gather and betray love's future.

A candle is extinguished

God of our day and night, be with us as we share your cup of pain and loss, trusting you when shadows seem so deep.

A candle is extinguished

God, who lives in us. Help us to hold your cup and to walk in Jesus' footsteps, through death to live.

A candle is extinguished

The Christ candle is left burning

Our Lord's Prayer

You may leave in silence when you are ready!

Emmanuel United Church



“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” – Jesus at the Last Supper (John 13:34-35)

Maundy Thursday occurs during Holy Week and remembers when Jesus Christ instituted the Eucharist during the Last Supper. This day also commemorates the events that took place on the night before Jesus' crucifixion.

Worship Leader: Rev Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

WELCOME

LET US PRAY (Burgess/Polhill: Eggs and ashes)

L: As we prepare to share this Simple Supper, in remembrance of the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples, let us pray:

Be present at our table, Lord; Be here and everywhere adored; Thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with Thee.

Creator of earth and heaven, your hungry children feed, your grace be to our spirits given, that true immortal bread. Grant us and all our race in Jesus Christ to prove the sweetness of your pardoning grace, the manna of thy love.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:26-30 – The Lord’s Supper

REFLECTION: “*The Meal That Unites*”

THE BLESSING OF THE MEAL

L: How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God’s people to live together in harmony! (Ps 133)
Welcome to this meal, in the name of Christ. We come to share in God’s love.

P: We come to share our food and our lives.

L: We come to break bread together, and open ourselves to each other.

P: We come to express our faith and our thanks.

L: May God bless this food and this fellowship.

P: As we share our food, we give thanks for this abundance, and we remember those who do not have enough.

L: May God give food to those who are hungry.

P: May God give us a hunger for justice, and a determination to serve those who hunger for food.

SIMPLE SUPPER IS SERVED

SETTING THE TABLE

L: On the table in the midst of this community with whom Christ is present we set symbols to remind us of his promises to us:

READER 1: A candle, to remind us of the way, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life”.

READER 2: Bread, symbol to remind us of God’s love, “I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world”.

All: God, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share Nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence. With us now, and at all times and places. Amen.

LOVE FEAST – Passing the Bread and Sharing A Drink

THE PEACE

L: Behold, the fragments of our feast. Our meal is ended, but God’s banquet continues as we go from this place.

P: Let us take the banquet into the world and never give up until all people are fed.

L: May the peace of Christ be upon you, and may you be channels of peace and justice.

ALL: Amen.

SONG: THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE By Peter Sholtes

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians By our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: Chorus:
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side. We will work with each other, we will work side by side And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride: Chorus:
4. All Praise to the Father from whom all things come. And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son, and all praise to the Spirit who makes us all one: Chorus:

READ: John 13: 1-18, 26– 35, Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples, the Betrayal and Denial

RESPONSE: *And they'll know we are Christians By our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians*

Water of Forgiveness, Water of Baptism, Water for Washing Disciples’ Feet

L: Servant God, kneeling, bending, serving us, take our dusty journeys

P: and wrap your hands around them:

L: every path we have trodden in life,

P: every word that has taken us to hurtful scenes,

L: thought that has moved us toward the shadows,

P: every act that has led us into harmful places.

L: Wash away the pain as we confess and you forgive. Take the wounds of our traveling

P: and hold them in your healing hands.

L: Every journey of remembrance that holds too many memories,

P: every memory that weighs us down with anger we cannot surrender, every place we have visited that holds too much pain. Wash away the lingering memories as we let go and you heal.