



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Maundy Thursday
St. George's
Episcopal Church

April 9, 2020
Agapé Supper and Service
for Distance Worship

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Regardless of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

Agapé Supper and Service

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020

This service has been adapted from the Book of Occasional Services 2018, by the Rev. Dr. James Farwell and Dr. Lisa Kimball for use when Maundy Thursday Eucharist is not possible. The Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan further adapted it for use at St. George's. The Bible passages are taken from the Common English Bible.

Dear Family of God at St. George's Episcopal Church,

What follows here is a resource for you and your household during the three central days of the Christian year. While Easter is every Sunday, these Three Days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday / Vigil of Easter are like one great annual Sunday. Due to the pandemic, we are not able to celebrate these important services together in church. Still, we believe that Christ is with us in his word, by his Spirit drawing us together as one before God.

About this Service

Agape is a Greek word for love. This meal and these prayers remind us of the last supper Jesus shared with his beloved friends. When Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples it took place in a room located on the second floor of someone's home in Jerusalem.

On this holy night, during this extraordinary time of social distancing, we are being taken back into our homes, which is where much of Jesus' ministry took place and where the early church used to gather.

Some Suggestions for the Meal and for the Service:

- A simple meatless Mediterranean meal could be prepared for your supper that is in keeping with your own dietary requirements. Salads, soups, simple meatless proteins, fruit and nuts and simple grains and pastas are all suggested, along with some bread and wine.
 - Multiple households could prepare for this service and coordinate their celebration of it using a video conferencing platform, alternating blessings;
 - In the account of the Last Supper, Jesus also washed his disciples' feet, to model loving service. If households would like to do this, you will need an empty basin or bucket, another container filled with warm water and some towels ready to dry the feet of your loved ones. If you have an essential oil at home, putting a few drops in the water adds a lovely fragrance;
 - Before you begin, you can choose persons to fill the roles of leader and readers. You can use the Bible translation provided or use other translations. Biblegateway.com is an online resource where you can find many translations;
 - At the beginning of the service (before the meal begins), you are invited to light a candle as you listen to the opening hymn.
-

The Blessings

At dinner time, all gather around the table, standing as able. After a time of silence, someone lights a candle or candles. After the candles are lit, play the recording of the hymn "Taste and See" (WLP 764) and sing along if you'd like. [Click here for the recording.](#)

Hymn WLP 764: "Taste and See" James. E. Moore, Jr.

Refrain:

**Taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
O taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

**1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
His praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord;
for he has been so good to me. (Refrain)**

**2 Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise his name.
I called the Lord and he answered me;
from all my troubles he set me free. (Refrain)**

**3 Worship the Lord all you people.
You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that God is good;
in him we need put all our trust. (Refrain)**

After the hymn is sung, a member of the household offers the following blessings:

Over Wine (or over other beverages at the table)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Over Bread (or over other another grain or starch)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Meal

The meal is now eaten. During this meal, the Bible tells us that Jesus washed his friends' feet as a sign that we are called to serve one another. For this meal, if several are gathered, let each one serve the food to someone else.

The Word and the Prayers

At the end of the meal, everyone remains seated and you can play the recording of the hymn "As in that Upper Room" (WLP 729). [Click here for the recording.](#)

Hymn WLP 729: "As in that upper room you left your seat"

Sursum Corda

**1 As in that upper room you left your seat
and took a towel and chose a servant's part,
so for today, Lord, wash again my feet,
who in your mercy died to cleanse my heart.**

**2 I bow before you, all my sin confessed,
to hear again the words of love you said;
and at your table, as your honored guest,
I take and eat the true and living bread.**

**3 So in remembrance of your life laid down
I come to praise you for your grace divine;
Saved by your cross, and subject to your crown,
strengthened for service by this bread and wine.**

Then someone from the table is invited to read the following passage from the Gospel of John.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to John

John 13:1-9, 34-35 - from the Common English Bible

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. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later."

"No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with me."

Simon Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!"

[Jesus said]: "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

Father David Casey, our Young Adult Chaplain, has prepared a meditation reflecting on the importance of this night. You can play it here. [Click here for the recording.](#)

And now you can play the recording of the following psalm chanted by our Music Director John Vreeland and St. George's clergy. [Click here for the recording.](#) As the chant plays, if you would like to wash the feet of your loved ones this would be an appropriate time to do so. Hold the person's foot over the basin and pour the water over their foot to gently wash it. Then use the towel to dry their foot.

Psalm 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place;
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you,
your right hand holds me fast.

Someone from the table is invited to offer this closing prayer:

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: O God of the crucified and risen One, from whom no trial or trouble can separate us: you feed us with your Word and soothe us with your Spirit, closer to us than breath itself.

Make us glad this night for the life of your servant Jesus;
Make us servants of all for the sake of Jesus;
who for our sake gave his life for the salvation of all.

In the Name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

All: Amen.

This prayer concludes this special Agape supper. Tomorrow is Good Friday. The service will be available on the St. George's website and the St. George's Facebook page. Please check our webpage www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net for the full schedule and how to access these distance worship and fellowship events for all ages.

Know that your prayers gather with the prayers of the whole Church around the world as we journey with Jesus to the cross and beyond. May God bless you and watch over the well-being of your body, mind and soul. –From the St. George's Clergy

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
Associate Rector

905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540.373.4133 (telephone)
540.374.0923 (fax)
stgeorgesepiscopal.net

For Pastoral Emergencies: 540.361.8573
general inquiries:
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net
