

**First Baptist Church of Griffin**  
**Maundy Thursday Meditation**  
**April 9, 2020**

Our active and participatory meditation on the story of Maundy Thursday attempts to meet the needs of those worshiping at home, whether alone or with other members of their household. Before you begin, consider the following:

1. Given that part of this story takes place around a meal, consider using this guide at a mealtime on Maundy Thursday. Jesus and his disciples gathered for supper, but you may be most alert in the mornings. Using this at the meal of your choice is encouraged.
2. You might choose to share Communion again together on Thursday. If so, gather your materials beforehand—whatever bread or cracker you have available, your grape juice, living water, or other drink.
3. You have a choice to wash your hands or your feet, or to wash one another's hands or feet if you're part of a household. You may want to prepare ahead of time by planning to gather at the sink or preparing a bowl of water, some soap, and some towels.
4. If you choose, our prayer time invites you to write and/or draw. Gather some paper, pencils, and coloring materials beforehand. Whatever you have available is fine—blank paper or lined; pencils or pens; crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

*As you prepare to imagine what it was like for the disciples and Jesus their final evening together before the crucifixion, stand as you are able around your table and read the verses below aloud. This translation is the Common English Bible; please feel free to use your own Bible.*

### **Matthew 26:17-19**

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?" He replied, "Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, 'The teacher says, "My time is near. I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house." ' " The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.

### **John 13:2-16**

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 responded, "Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you." He knew who would betray him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you is clean."

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.

*Wash your hands for supper or take turns washing one another's hands or feet. Don't limit yourself to twenty seconds. Let your mind wander—what kinds of loving touch are you missing in these days of physical distancing? What would it be like to feel Jesus touch you with such loving care? How much healing has Jesus offered with those hands?*

*Return to your table and be seated to read the next passage aloud.*

### **Matthew 26:20-25**

That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating he said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me."

Deeply saddened, each one said to him, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?"

He replied, "The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."

Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You said it."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom." Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

*The disciples came with Jesus to celebrate the Passover. Yes, they are remembering the sad sojourn of the Israelites' slavery in Egypt, but more importantly they are celebrating God's bringing them out of slavery and continued care, even though the hardest of times. Families would go to Jerusalem to celebrate together. Old friends might see one another for the first time in a year or more.*

*Let your mind wander and wonder again—How would it feel to be one of the disciples, hearing Jesus talk so seriously and sadly during a festival?*

*If you are celebrating Communion, share the bread and say, "The bread of heaven" or "The body of Christ, broken for you." You can dip the bread in the cup or drink, saying, "The cup of salvation" or "The blood of Christ, shed for you."*

*Sing together a song of praise. Consider:*

[\*I Love You, Lord\*](#)

[\*God is So Good\*](#)

[\*Hallelu, Hallelu\*](#)

*\*The links to YouTube videos are to help you if you need to hear the tune. Don't feel like you need the video to sing it or that you must sing it the way the example does. If you cannot click on the link, search YouTube with the song title and "Wee Sing."*

*After singing, continue reading aloud.*

### **Matthew 26:31-44**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, *I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions*. But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you to Galilee."

Peter replied, "If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble."

Jesus said to him, "I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times."

Peter said, "Even if I must die alongside you, I won't deny you." All the disciples said the same thing.

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, “Stay here while I go and pray over there.” When he took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, “I’m very sad. It’s as if I’m dying. Stay here and keep alert with me.” Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it’s possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want.”

He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” A second time he went away and prayed, “My Father, if it’s not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.”

Again he came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were heavy with sleep. But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time.

*If you gathered paper and writing/coloring materials, now is the time to use those tools. Spend some time in prayer, in whatever manner you choose. If using the paper and other materials, you can do this form of prayer as an individual. Families with very young children may choose to do it together.*

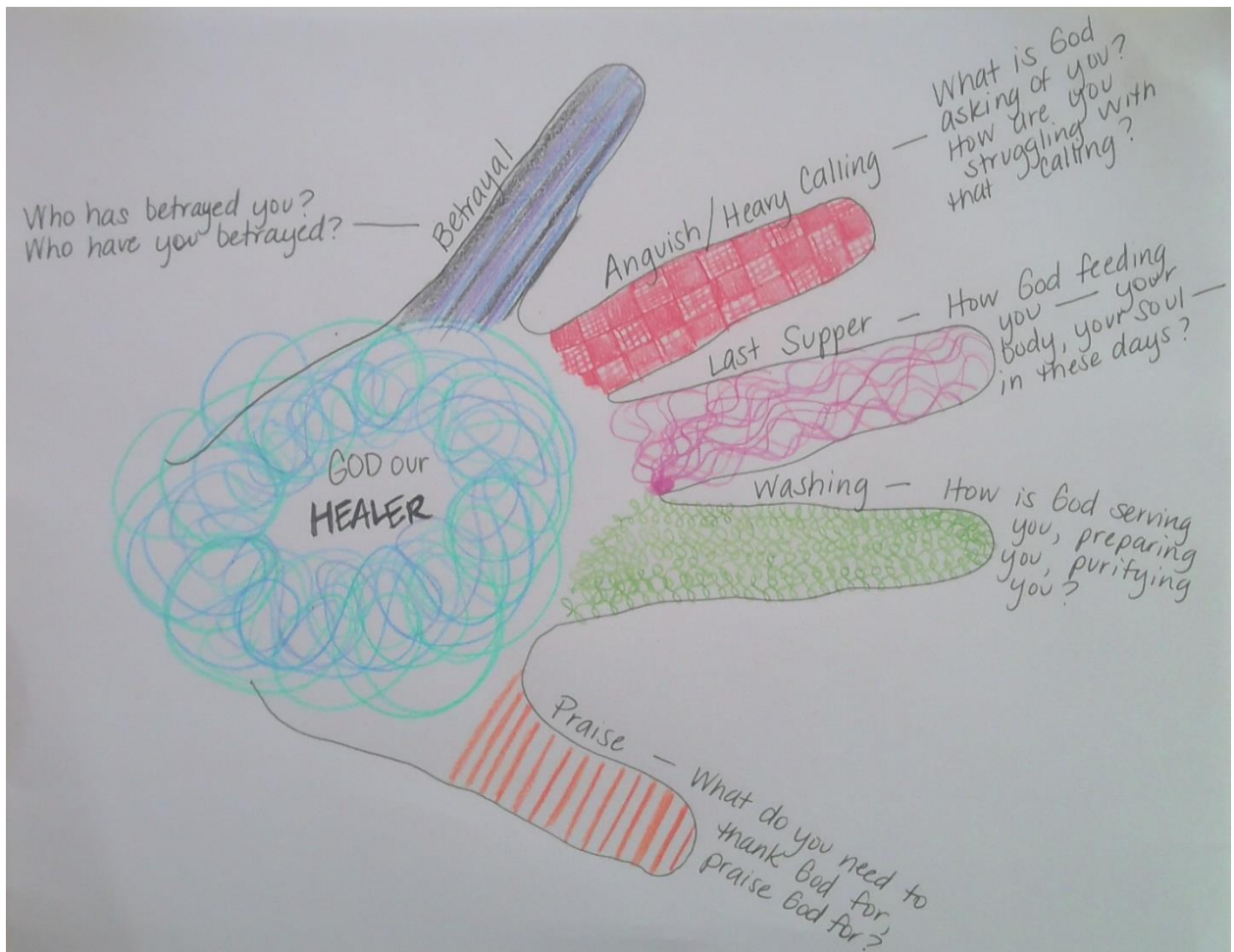
*Trace your hand on a sheet of paper. Write “God our Healer” or another name for God that is meaningful to you in the center of your palm. Think and pray for a moment around that name for God and how you know it to be true.*

*Then, beginning with your thumb, move around your hand drawing and/or writing as you consider these prompts:*

- 1. Thumb: Praise – What do you need to thank or praise God for?*
- 2. Pointer: Washing – How is God serving you, preparing you, purifying you? Younger children might wonder how God is growing them.*
- 3. Middle: Last Supper – How is God feeding you—your body, your soul—in these days? Younger children might wonder how God is giving them the things they need.*
- 4. Ring: Anguish/Heavy Calling – What is God asking of you? How are you struggling with that calling? Younger children might wonder how God is using them to love and serve others.*

5. *Pinky: Betrayal – Who has betrayed you? Who have you betrayed? Younger children might best understand betrayal in terms of who has hurt them or made them sad.*

*Take as long as you need. Finally, return to the middle and reflect again on your name for God. Pray that you might know the truth of that name in every “finger area” you prayed over.*



Thank you for journeying with us through Maundy Thursday. We will pick up the story in our Good Friday worship service, available for you to stream on Facebook and at our website, [www.fbcgriffin.org](http://www.fbcgriffin.org). The service will be available beginning at 6:00 PM on Friday, April 10.