

A Love Feast Liturgy for the time of COVID-19

BLESSING THE MEAL

**Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored;
These mercies bless, and grant that we
May strengthened for your service be.**

**Be present in our bodies, Lord
Be in our spirits, minds and homes;
While sickness draws us far apart
Bring strength and peace and warm our hearts
Amen**

(Tune: OLD 100TH)

SETTING THE TABLE

Leader: We have set our table with things to remind us of our Lord Jesus, who sat around a table with his closest friends for that final meal so many years ago.

Reader 1: A candle, which reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who shines in the darkness. In the midst of a dark pandemic we remember God's loving light is always with us.

Reader 2: Bread, which reminds us that Jesus is the bread of life. As we find ourselves hungry for connection in a time of isolation, we remember Jesus' promise that if we eat from the bread of heaven, we will not hunger, but have eternal life.

Reader 3: A bowl of water and a cloth, which reminds us of Jesus washing the feet of his friends. In this time of great need, when some are cooped up together while others are alone, we remember to serve each other in kindness and humility.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Leader: John 13:1-17, 31a-35

Video: Pastor Gerald's Meditation on Maundy Thursday

PASSING OF THE BREAD

Leader: Now we break bread together remembering that our God will nourish us, sustain us and bring us through.

The bread is passed from person to person. Each person may be invited in passing the bread to offer a blessing to their neighbor for health, safety, peace, comfort, etc.

DRINKING FROM THE LOVING CUP

Leader: Now we drink, believing in the one who promises living water and new life that gushes up like a spring.

Everyone takes a drink from their own cups.

SHARING THE MEAL

As the meal is shared, each person is encouraged to share stories from this season of COVID-19. Stories of grief and fear as well as stories of hope, resilience and gratitude are welcome.

PRAYERS

A time of silence may be held here. Also, persons are invited to share prayer requests and a closing prayer may be led by the leader or a volunteer.

THE 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Video: Grace McGrail sings "Behold The Lamb"

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Leader: Our meal here is done. Our bellies are full, our bodies nourished and our souls fed.

***All:* But God's feast never ends. Even when social distancing rules and quarantines seat us at different tables, we are together at one heavenly banquet.**

Leader: May God grant us a peaceful evening and night of comfort and rest.

***All:* Amen**