

## THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD (1)

A Final Meal – Luke 22:7-20

6<sup>th</sup> March 2022



### WELCOME AND NOTICES

'The Way' being shown this afternoon at 4pm in advance of the Lent Course, which starts on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Maintenance morning on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am to 12noon

ACM reports: if you haven't sent your report yet to the Church Office, please do so by the end of the day.

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

It is the custom of the Church to prepare for Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead with a season of self-denial and penitence. This season of Lent was first observed by those being prepared for baptism at Easter and by those seeking to be restored to the Church. Today all Christians are invited to prepare for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter through turning away from sins, receiving forgiveness and growing in faith. Therefore, I invite you to enter into this season of Lent by self-examination, repentance and reading God's Word.

### OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

Almighty God, you hate nothing of all you have made, and forgive those who come to you for forgiveness. Create in us clean hearts so that as we turn to you and confess our sins, we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
In your constant love;  
In your mercy wash us clean  
And cleanse us from our sin.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, who is merciful and kind,

forgives those who come in humility before him,  
confessing their sins.  
He says to us, "Your sins are forgiven."  
He also says, "Follow me."  
Let us receive his forgiveness and walk in his ways  
To the glory of his holy name. **Amen.**

### SONGS:

**COME PEOPLE OF THE RISEN KING  
Who delight to bring Him praise  
Come all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in**

*Rejoice Rejoice, let every tongue rejoice  
One heart one voice, O Church of Christ  
rejoice*

**Come those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night  
Come those who tell of battles won  
And those struggling in the fight  
For His perfect love will never change  
And His mercies never cease  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace**

*Rejoice Rejoice, let every tongue rejoice  
One heart one voice, O Church of Christ  
rejoice*

**Come young and old from every land  
Men and women of the faith  
Come those with full or empty hands  
Find the riches of His grace  
Over all the world His people sing  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The Truth that cries through every age  
Our God is all in all**

**GOD, YOU HAVE DONE GREAT THINGS**

God, You give grace to the weak,  
And bless the broken-hearted  
with a song of praise to sing.  
You reached down and lifted us up,  
You came running, looking for us.  
And now there's nothing,  
and no one beyond Your love.

*You're the overflow,  
You're the fountain of my heart,  
So let Your mercy rain,  
let Your mercy rain on us.  
You're the faithful One  
when the world's falling apart.  
So let Your mercy rain,  
let Your mercy rain on us.*

How deep, how wide,  
how long, how high  
Is Your love, is Your love.

How deep, how wide,  
how long, how high  
Is Your love, is Your love, O God.

MERCIFUL GOD, O abounding in love,  
Faithful to all who draw near You;  
Hearing the cries of the humble in heart,  
Showing the cross they may cling to.  
Helpless I come, broken in sin,  
Found at the feet of Your mercy.  
Father, forgive,  
May my sin be remembered no more.

Merciful God, O abounding in love,  
Faithful through times we have failed  
You –  
Selfish in thought and uncaring in deed,

Foolish in word and ungrateful.  
Spirit of God, conquer our hearts  
With love that flows from forgiveness;  
Cause us to yield  
And return to the mercy of God.

Merciful God, O abounding in love,  
Faithful to keep us from falling;  
Guiding our ways with Your fatherly  
heart,  
Growing our faith with each testing.  
God speed the day struggles will end,  
Faultless we'll gaze on Your glory;  
Then we will stand  
Overwhelmed by the mercy of God.

**OFFERTORY**

Gracious Lord, you give us all we have,  
even life itself. We offer to you these gifts  
as part of our worship. Now take our gifts  
and bless them for your glory's sake.  
Amen.

**INTRO TO THE THEME: A good party**



What makes a good party? Talk in twos or threes about what makes a good party and about some of the parties you have enjoyed. What made them so special?

Alternately, what is the weirdest food you've ever eaten?

### INTRO TO THE READING: The Passover meal

The Jewish people have a special meal called the **Seder** (Passover meal) every spring when the whole family meets together to celebrate the Passover. Passover is the time when God sent his angel to 'pass over' Egypt. All those with the blood of the lamb on their doorframe were saved, and all the homes without the blood of the lamb on the doorframe lost their eldest son. This final plague caused Pharaoh to let God's people go free.

When God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt he brought them into freedom and gave them the promised land. God promised to be with them and they were to keep his laws. This was God's first covenant. One of the laws was that they celebrate the Passover every year. During the meal the story of the Passover is retold (**Haggadah**).

The meal we call the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his friends was the Seder, the Passover meal. Let's hear Luke's account of what happened.

### READING: Luke 22:7-23 – read by Peter

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.' <sup>9</sup> 'Where do you want us to prepare for it?' they asked. <sup>10</sup> He replied, 'As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup> and say to the owner of the

house, 'The Teacher asks: where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" <sup>12</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.'

<sup>13</sup> They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God.'

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, 'Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'

<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.' <sup>21</sup> But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. <sup>22</sup> The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!' <sup>23</sup> They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

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### SONG:

**BROKEN FOR ME, *broken for you,***  
***The body of Jesus, broken for you.***

**He offered His body, He poured out His soul;**  
**Jesus was broken, that we might be whole:**

***Broken for me, broken for you,***  
***The body of Jesus, broken for you.***

**Come to My table and with Me dine;**  
**Eat of My bread and drink of My wine.**

***Broken for me, broken for you,***  
***The body of Jesus, broken for you.***

**This is My body given for you;**  
**Eat it remembering I died for you.**

***Broken for me, broken for you,***  
***The body of Jesus, broken for you.***

**This is My blood I shed for you;**  
**For your forgiveness, making you new.**

***Broken for me, broken for you,***  
***The body of Jesus, broken for you.***

**ACTION:** During Lent we will be following Luke's account of the last three days of Jesus' life. We begin with the Last Supper. This meal that Jesus gave us is known by many names across the Christian traditions: Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread, the Eucharist, and the Mass. The words that are used are similar in different traditions but not all the same, although the Last Supper account from one of the gospels or from 1 Corinthians 11 are always used.

Write or draw on the paper provided what is the most important part of Communion for you: is it the words of Jesus or the liturgy we use, the actions involved, the bread and wine, the symbolism of the new covenant, the connection to the Passover meal, the real presence of the Lord, the silence, the future banquet which we will share with Christ in eternity, the family nature of the meal, or something else. Or write a Bible verse that means a lot to you that is about the Last Supper / Holy Communion, e.g. Luke 24:30-31.

Think about the reasons for your choice. Then talk about your reasons with someone else at your table. Listen carefully to their reasons. Don't get into a debate about which is the most important aspect of Communion, just share your views and listen to the views of others.



If you would like your sheet displayed on the board, please put it on the back table.

### PRAYERS

Lord, we thank you for the wonder of your love for us in giving your life so that we may live. We thank you for the meal you gave us, the celebration of your sacrificial death on the cross. May we grow closer to you this Lent and discover more of your love day by day.

Lord, as we are overshadowed once again by war, we lift up before you the innocents and vulnerable, the victims of

violence and cruelty, along with all who sow the seeds of hate.

In the fog of war where truth is the first victim, may your light, which cannot be overwhelmed, expose the truth.

Grant to world leaders and all in positions of power today not only the wisdom but also the courage to do what is right in your sight. Grant all who turn to you your strength and fortitude, your inner peace, along with a continuing faith in your sovereign power, in the face of military might.

Just as we pray for others, so we pray for ourselves, that we may not sow hate but love, that we may be reconciled to others and live in your peace.

All this we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, our living Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **SONG:**

**HOPE FOR THE WORLD'S DESPAIR  
We feel for Ukraine's pain  
Can anything repair  
Their broken land again**

**For this we pray, in every place  
A spark of grace to light the way**

**Wisdom for all who bear  
The future in their hand  
Entrusted with the care  
Of theirs and every land  
When comes the hour, O Lord, we pray,  
Inspire the way, we spend our power**

**Honour for all who've paid  
War's painful, bitter price  
When duty called they made  
The greatest sacrifice  
Their memory will never cease  
To cry for peace and harmony**

**Ease for the troubled mind  
In endless conflict caught  
Each soul that cannot find  
The peace beyond all thought  
May they be blessed with healing balm  
For inner calm and perfect rest**

**Love for the human heart  
When hate grows from our fears  
And inwardly we start  
To turn our ploughs to spears  
Help us to sow love's precious seed  
In word and deed that peace may grow**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Gracious God, may we walk in fellowship with you and draw others into your eternal kingdom, where peace and justice reign; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**