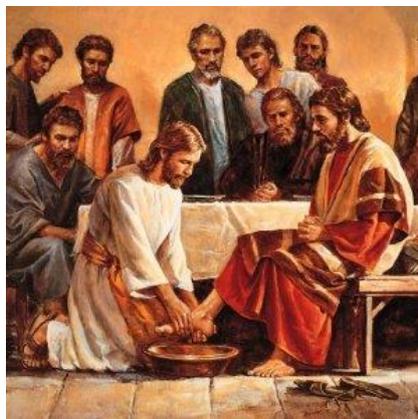


The Parish Churches of Maxton & Mertoun linked with Newtown linked with St Boswells

Reflections for 9th April 2020

Holy Week - Maundy Thursday



Introduction

Maundy Thursday has arrived, this evening in the Church Hall in St Boswells we would normally have shared communion, listened to the words of Jesus, sang hymns of praise that are fitting for Maundy Thursday, one of my favourites being 'Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, master who acts as a slave to them', the chorus of which says 'Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbours we have from you'. Beautiful words, the meaning of which at this time are evident in what is happening around us, as people show care and concern for neighbours, showing Christ's love, whether they have a faith in God or only a passing thought. What Jesus did at the beginning of the evening was an act of love, of caring for his friends. Then as they ate their supper as he spoke of his death, as he shared bread and wine with his disciples he spoke of betrayal and of what was to come. Afterwards going out into the Garden of Gethsemane when as we know everything changed.

Prayer

Jesus, our friend, our saviour, what love you showed to your disciples and what humility in your service. You are the Lord of Life, Son of God, yet you stooped down to take off the grimy sandals' and to wash their dusty feet.

With loving care you dried them with the towel making them fresh and cool. Since you, our Lord and Saviour did such a lowly service for us, ought we not humbly serve others also? As we listen to these reflections at this time, as we remember that great love you showed in all you did whether teaching and healing, comforting and or challenging, open our hearts to

you afresh, give us understanding of your word to us, fill us with your Spirit of grace, for in your name we pray, Amen

Reading: Matthew 26: 17 - 30

Reflection

The Passover for Christians is not for us part of our heritage; it is very much a Jewish feast. For us as Christians what gives this night its meaning is Jesus instruction to his disciples. In Remembering with the bread and the wine, we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. We remember too that the cross was not the end, that Christ rose from the dead, that he lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit, that we in remembering each day of the great love of God for all people has given us freedom, forgiveness, grace and the promise of eternal life. As Jesus tells us from John's gospel chapter 14 verse 22; "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, saying this is my body broken for you. Take eat to remember me.

And after supper taking the cup saying, this cup is the cup of salvation, making possible the forgiveness of sin and a new relationship with God, drink this to remember me.

This invitation is from the book *The Green Heart of the Snowdrop*:

The fire is lit, the table is set; the door stands open. Come to eat and drink. Come to be part of the community, come to be part of a worldwide communion of those who trust in Jesus. Come round the table saint and sinner, stranger and friend, to break bread, to share wine, prepared and poured for you.

In sharing the symbols of life blood spilt and body broken, become one with Christ and with all those, who, hurting, yearn for healing today.

Come, here is food for your healing, bread and wine for your journey. Come to be full-filled, by God, the Giver and Lover of all.

Here on this table we have the symbols of Christ's body broken for us and Christ's blood poured out for us.

We will once again gather together to share and to celebrate Holy Communion, but for now, we can reflect and meditate on his words to us.

Prayer and Blessing:

In the night-time of our fears and in our time of questioning, be present, ever present God, Be present with those camped out in the fields of hopelessness, all who are unwell, all who are feeling the pain of uncertainty, all who are feeling lonely around our world where even in the midst of this virus there are refugees and there are those who are homeless, those who are dealing with fear from violence in war torn countries and in our country too. We pray your presence with those who live with quiet desperation, be present until the desert places blossom like the rose, and hope is born again, and may the life of God be in our beginnings, the heart of Christ be at our centre and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit shape all our endings, Amen