

Maundy Thursday

Readings: Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14

Corinthians 11:23–26

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Judas has left the building, and no one suspects what is to come. How puzzling Jesus' words must have seemed to them at that point;

“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him...Little children, I am with you only a little longer’...Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



The disciples had left their families and had spent over three years following Jesus as he roamed the land. To be told that he would be leaving them would have been confusing, shocking and worrying; the disciples are told not to travel. We can empathise, as we sit in our homes with normal life suspended, in a state of bewilderment; and yet we can cling to the words of Jesus we know so well. *‘Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.’*

Points for reflection

After all the miracles, signs, teaching and preaching, Jesus one instruction was to show love. It's not easy, when we are in isolation or separated from the people we care for and about. We must think creatively.



Reflect on the past few weeks. What have others done for you, or have you heard about, that brought a moment of joy, comfort or consolation?

How can you express love to another, within the understandable limits of your current situation?

Express your love for someone in the best way that you can. Be creative! Make a phone call, write a letter or card. Arrange to watch a movie 'together', chatting through it on the phone or online. Read the same book as your friend, and compare notes at a later date, or by email. Take photos, write a poem, sing to a neighbour over the garden fence. We are children of a creative, loving God!

◆O God, protect those whom we love and who are separated from us. Guide them when they are uncertain, comfort them when they are lonely or afraid, and bless them with the warmth of your presence. Thank you that neither space nor time can cut us off from the love we have in each other. Amen.