

MAUNDY THURSDAY HAND WASHING SERVICE



April 2, 2026, 7:00pm

St. Davids-Queenston United Church

Gathering & Musical Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle & Call to Worship

We gather on this holy night, not in the glow of triumph, but in the gentle light of humility. As we light this candle, we remember the Light of the World, who knelt to serve. (*Christ candle is lit.*)

Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and return to God. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

We come to remember. We come to receive. We come to follow.

Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Lord, teach us to serve as you have served.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's hands.

We come not to be served, but to serve, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, on this night, your Son Jesus Christ showed the full extent of his love. He rose from the table, wrapped a towel around his waist, and became a servant.

As we prepare to wash one another's hands, strip away our pride and our desire for status. Soften our hearts to receive love, and strengthen our hands to give it. Help us to see in this simple act a reflection of your radical grace, that we may love one another as you have loved us. We ask this in the name of the One who washed feet, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU #469 "We Gather Here"

*We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
No one is a stranger here, - everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.*

*He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
We are now a family of which Christ is the head;
though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.*

*We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.*

Scripture Lesson: John 13:1-5

Sacred Music: "Pray One Hour"

Sermon: "The Unfinished Work"

Hymn: VU 342 "You Servants of God"

*You servants of God, your Saviour proclaim,
And publish abroad that wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol,
Whose kingdom is glorious and rules over all.*

*God rules from on high, almighty to save,
Whose Word still is nigh, a presence we have.
The great congregation God's triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.*

*Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son!
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Bow down in deep reverence and worship the Lamb.*

*Then let us adore and give as is right,
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honour and blessing with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love.*

Blessings of the Water

Servant God, kneeling, bending, serving us. Take our dusty journeys, and wrap your hands around them. Every path we have trodden in life: every word that has taken us to hurtful locations, every thought that has moved us toward the shadows, every act that has led us into rough places, wash away the pain, as we confess, and you forgive.

(during a moment of silence, pour more water)

Take the wounds of our traveling and hold them in your healing hands: every journey of remembrance that holds too many memories, every burden we carry that weighs us with anger that we cannot let go, every place we have visited that holds too much pain. Wash away the lingering, as we let go and let you heal.
(during a moment of silence, pour more water)

Take the discomfort of our values, and wash and wipe and cleanse as you serve us: every lesson about love we have not learned, every heavenly value we have not grasped, every truth of your Realm we have ignored. Wash away the hesitation, as we accept your love, and offer our love too.
(during a moment of silence, pour more water)

Jesus says: Come you who are weary, you who are heavy laden. Come, and let my hands refresh your living. Let me be your servant, and witness heaven on earth. **(silence)**

Water of Love, the Servants Basin; Hand Washing

(All are welcome to the Maundy Thursday Hand Washing Table)

Do this in memory of the One who did this for you.

I will remember.

As Christ served, I serve you. You are loved.

May your hands be blessed for the work God has given you.

As Christ loved, I receive love. Thank you.

May my hands be willing to serve others as you have served me.

Prayer After Hand-Washing

Holy God, You have poured out your love upon us.

These hands, now washed, bear witness to your humility.

These hands, now dried, are marked by your grace.

We confess that we often clench them in pride, withhold them in fear, or use them to build walls instead of tables. But tonight, you have loosened them. You have held them. You have made them clean. Do not let us leave this place unchanged. Let these hands become your hands, gentle with the hurting, open to the stranger, and generous even when it costs us.

For we are no longer servants who merely follow instruction.

We are friends who have seen the heart of our Master.

And having been washed, we go now to wash the world.

In the name of Jesus, who washed and who saves, Amen.

Hymn: # VU 595 “We Are Pilgrims”

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through*

Commissioning And Benediction

Holy Christ, we have gathered in community, and we go out into the world, prepared for what will come, for we know how the story continues.

We go out into the world preparing for what might come in our lives, for we do not know how the story continues. But, we know this, we are loved, we are nurtured, in all we do, and in all we need to do, we are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Go into the night having been fed by the hand of God. Go knowing that though the road is hard, you do not walk alone. **Amen.**

*Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see;
God will be there, watching from above,
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen*

*** PIANO POSTLUDE**