

# MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 2026

*Love that Kneels. Love that Feeds. Love that Stays.*

*With Intuition, Imagination and Love*



St Andrew's Church, Walkerville

## *Gathering*

Tonight we gather in the Upper Room.

This is the night of towel and basin,  
of bread and cup,  
of promise and betrayal,  
of courage and fear.

This is the night love kneels.  
This is the night love feeds.  
This is the night love stays.

We will follow the story by candlelight.  
After each action a candle will be lit.  
We will listen.  
We will respond.  
We will pray.

Light does not remove the darkness.  
But it refuses to disappear.

## *Opening Hymn - Lord Jesus Christ [Living Lord]*

- 1. Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
you are one with us,  
Mary's Son;  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in;  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
living Lord.**

2. **Lord Jesus Christ,  
now and every day,  
teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this, in remembrance, Lord, of you:  
into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.**
  
3. **Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
born as one of us,  
Mary's Son.  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see  
you are Lord.**
  
4. **Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
live my life for you,  
Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your power breaks through,  
living Lord.**

*Patrick Robert Norman Appleford (1925–2018)*

### *Opening Prayer*

God of light and truth,  
draw us into this holy night.  
Bring us close to Christ –  
close to the towel, close to the table, close to the garden.

May we learn again  
that love kneels, love feeds, and love stays.  
**Amen.**

# Maundy Thursday by Candlelight

## *Anointing*

### **Mark 14: 3-9**

While he was at Bethany, at the table,  
a woman came with an alabaster jar  
of very costly ointment of pure nard.  
She broke the jar and poured it over him.

Some were there who said to one another in anger,  
“Why was the ointment wasted like this?  
This could have been sold and the money given to the poor.”

But Jesus said,  
“Let her alone. Why do you trouble her?  
She has performed a beautiful thing for me.  
She has done what she could.  
She has anointed my body beforehand for burial.  
Wherever the good news is proclaimed,  
what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

**All: She has done what she could.**

*(Candle is lit)*

### *Poem*

On my knees —  
I break what is precious.  
I pour what I cannot keep.  
Love does not measure the cost —  
it gives what it has:  
intuition, imagination, love.

### *Prayers*

For ourselves: when love feels vulnerable or exposed  
For our world: where kindness is overlooked or misunderstood

**All: Teach us love that kneels.**

## *Washing*

### **John 13: 1-5**

Now before the festival of the Passover,  
Jesus knew that his hour had come  
to depart from this world and go to the Father.  
Having loved his own who were in the world,  
he loved them to the end.

During supper,  
knowing that he had come from God  
and was going to God,  
he rose from the table,  
laid aside his outer robe,  
tied a towel around himself,  
poured water into a basin,  
and began to wash the disciples' feet.

**All: He loved them to the end.**

*(Candle is lit)*

### *Poem*

On my knees —  
not above you,  
not beyond you,  
but beside you.  
Love begins where pride ends:  
intuition, imagination, love.

### *Prayers*

For ourselves: where we cling to pride  
For our world: where power overwhelms

**All: Teach us love that kneels.**

*Hymn - Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love (verses 1-2)*

*Refrain:*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.*

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet;  
master who acts as a slave to them.**
- 2. Neighbours are both rich and poor,  
neighbours are black, brown and white,  
neighbours are nearby and far away.**

*Tom Colvin (1925-2000)*

*Receiving*

**John 13: 6-10**

He came to Simon Peter.

**All: Lord, are you going to wash my feet?**

Jesus answered,  
"You do not know now what I am doing,  
but later you will understand."

**All: You will never wash my feet!**

Jesus replied,  
"Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

**All: Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head.**

Jesus said,  
"One who has bathed does not need to wash,  
except for the feet, but is entirely clean.  
And you are clean... though not all of you."

*(Candle is lit)*

## *Poem*

On my knees –  
because receiving love is hard.  
Because grace unsettles me.  
And still you stay close,  
and still you wash:  
intuition, imagination, love.

## *Prayers*

For ourselves: when receiving care feels uncomfortable  
For our world: where people feel unseen or unworthy

**All: Teach us love that feeds.**

## *Serving*

### **John 13: 12-17**

After he had washed their feet,  
he put on his robe and returned to the table.

He said,  
“Do you know what I have done for you?  
You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right.  
So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,  
you also ought to wash one another’s feet.  
For I have set you an example,  
that you also should do as I have done to you.  
Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master.  
If you know these things,  
you are blessed if you do them.”

**All: You have set us an example.**

*(Candle is lit)*

*Poem*

On my knees –  
this is the pattern.  
Take what you have received  
and pass it on.  
Love moves outward:  
intuition, imagination, love.

*Prayers*

For ourselves: make our compassion practical in small and ordinary ways.  
For our world: bless all whose quiet work sustains and nourishes others.

**All: Teach us love that feeds.**

*Hymn - Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You (verses 1-2)*

- 1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**
  
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**

*Richard Gillard (b.1953)*

## *Betrayal*

### **John 13: 21-30**

Jesus was troubled in spirit and said,  
“Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

The disciples looked at one another, uncertain.

*All: Surely not I?*

Jesus took a piece of bread,  
dipped it,  
and gave it to Judas.

And after receiving the bread, he went out.

And it was night.

*(Pause. Candle is lit)*

### *Poem*

On my knees —  
and still the room fractures.  
Bread is shared,  
and trust breaks.  
Hold us steady  
when love is wounded:  
intuition, imagination, love.

### *Prayers*

For ourselves: when trust is strained or wounded  
For our world: hold close all who carry the ache of broken  
relationships.

*All: Teach us love that stays.*

## *Love One Another*

### **John 13: 31-35**

Jesus said,  
“Little children, I am with you only a little longer.  
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.”

**All: Love one another.**

*(Candle is lit)*

### *Poem*

On my knees —  
not because I am weak,  
but because love is strong.  
You say: love one another.  
Not in theory, but in practice —  
intuition, imagination, love.

### *Prayers*

For ourselves: when love requires patience and perseverance

For our world: where communities are divided

**All: Teach us love that stays.**

*Hymn - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verses 1-2)*

- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**
- 2. Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*Sermon - The Rev'd Timothy Sherwell*

*Hymn - An Upper Room (verses 1-3)*

- 1. An Upper Room did our Lord prepare  
for those he loved until the end:  
and his disciples still gather there  
to celebrate their Risen Friend.**
- 2. A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:  
to share his bread, his loving cup.  
Whatever burdens may bow us down,  
he by his Cross shall lift us up.**
- 3. And after Supper he washed their feet,  
for service, too, is sacrament.  
In him our joy shall be made complete -  
sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

*Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

## *Linen Ritual*

We return to the Upper Room.

The table is set.

The night deepens.

The air is heavy with promise and with fear.

Tonight, we do not wash feet.

But we remember the towel.

We remember love that kneels.

Love that serves.

Love that stays.

Cloths of linen are distributed as a keepsake.

As a sign of the towel and the basin,  
you are invited to dip the edge of your linen  
into the scented water  
as a reminder of  
love that kneels,  
love that feeds,  
love that stays.

*(Linen dipping takes place with quiet instrumental music)*

### *Prayer over the Gifts*

Blessed are you God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,

Which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,

Fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God forever.**

*Holy Communion*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

They gathered in an upper room to share a meal.

And the names of the apostles were these:

Simon, called Peter, his brother Andrew;

James and his brother John – the sons of Zebedee;

Philip and Bartholomew;

Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;

James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus;

Simon the Patriot and Judas Iscariot.

Jesus, sharing bread and wine,

invited his disciples to share his journey.

Like many grains of wheat becoming one loaf of bread,  
the disciples were invited to become one body with him.

Here tonight, through bread and wine,

we renew our unity with Christ and one another,

and with those who have gone before us in this place.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you

for these gifts of your creation,

this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,

we who eat and drink them

may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'  
After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

These symbols are the start of a new way that speak about life  
inviting us to follow and walk the path of Jesus.

### *The Breaking of Bread and Communion*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body:  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

Lord Jesus, present with us now,  
as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room,  
breathe your spirit upon us, and upon this bread and this wine,  
that they may be heaven's food and drink for us,  
renewing, sustaining and making us whole,  
and that we may be your body on earth,  
loving and caring for the world.

### *Invitation to Communion*

This is the Bread of Life,  
and this is the Wine of Compassion.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

## *The Garden*

### **Luke 22: 39-44**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

He knelt and prayed,

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me;  
yet not my will, but yours be done.”

In his anguish he prayed more earnestly.

### *Final Poem*

On my knees –  
in the garden of shadows,  
I tremble and surrender.  
Love does not flee the night.  
It stays:  
intuition, imagination, love.

## *Stripping of the Church*

### *Hymn - Abide with me*

- 1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide,  
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**
- 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

3. **I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**
  
4. **I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**
  
5. **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

*H.F. Lyte (1793–1847)*

During the singing:

- *The lights are dimmed and the sanctuary candles extinguished.*
- *The linen, ornaments and hangings are now removed.*
- *The aumbry is emptied and left open,  
and the aumbry light is extinguished.*
- *The candles are removed from the chapel altar.*
- *Please come forward and take articles through to the Sacristy  
and return to the Church via the glass transept door.*

*Minister and people depart in silence without a blessing or dismissal.  
The worship continues here tomorrow on Good Friday at 9.30am  
and on Sunday for our celebratory Easter Day Services at 8am & 9.30am.*