

Agape Meal

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9, 2020 6 pm



To view the stream please go to:

YouTube Channel: St. John's Bangor Streaming

www.youtube.com/channel/UCFk1vPBqjWoCRZBIIKGActw

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

“An Agapé feast or Love Feast is a custom that originated in the early Church, and is mentioned in the Book of Jude (1:12). The Eucharist was often a part of it, though by the second century A.D. it had become separate. By the 8th century the Agapé was rarely used, but in the 18th century it was revived by Moravians and is finding much wider use in the 21st century by Anglicans, often used in ecumenical settings. While we are currently separated from our church families, it is comforting to know that many Episcopalians throughout Maine and the U.S. are using a similar Love Feast in their homes this evening.

The meal should be simple. A Mediterranean style meal is often chosen for Agapé meals with foods including soup (meatless, if possible), cheese, olives, dried fruit, bread and wine, but any foods are fine as long as they are simple.”

*From our friends Nancy and Robert Ludwig,
Church of the Good Shepherd, Rangeley, Maine*

The Gathering and Welcome

With words of welcome, all gather around their table as they are able with wine, bread, and simple supper foods. Money that may have been spent on a more elaborate meal may be donated for the food pantry at the Bangor Homeless Shelter. Offerings may be made this night to St. John's, Bangor through our website.

Ubi Caritas is sung in unison

**Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.**

(Wherever true love and Charity are found
God himself is there.)

After a time of silence

The Blessings

Over Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Meal

The meal is now eaten. If several are gathered in any home, they first serve one another, then dine.

Words of Reflection

While we eat, a reflection is offered by the Rev. Howard LaRue, priest and congregant of St. John's, Bangor

Hymn

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

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white, neighbors are nearby and far away. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love. All are neighbors to us and you.

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we were slaves; this is the way we should live with you.

The Word

At the end of the meal, the seventeenth chapter of the gospel of John is read.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to

take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

The Prayers

As Jesus prayed for his disciples and the world this night, so we pray.

On this holy day we dine together as the body of Christ, and at the table come to love and serve one another. On this holy day, then, let us pray for the church and the world, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the whole church of God, that it may grow in unity and servanthood: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our congregation, that in these holy days we may grow in love for one another and for all people: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who will be baptized at Easter throughout the world, that they may rejoice in their passage through death into new life: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all the leaders and people of the world, especially Donald our President, Janet our Governor and Clare our Mayor, that reconciliation and peace may overcome conflict and oppression: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the hungry in body or spirit, that they may be fed: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those suffering due to the corona virus in this time of worldwide pandemic, for those who are afflicted with this disease, for those whose livelihoods have been lost, and especially for courageous nurses, doctors and other healthcare workers, and for those who work in essential businesses, who continue to serve despite risk to themselves: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in pain, for the lonely and the forgotten, for the dying and all who mourn, that they may know the full extent of God’s love for them: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the saints and martyrs and for all the faithful departed who join us at your table of grace: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, into your love we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer *said in unison*

Our meal is ended and during the singing of Psalm 22 tables are cleared, and sacred spaces in the home may be cleared also. At its conclusion, the people leave in silence

Psalm 22

*As Jesus and his disciples left their table to go to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus asked them, "Could you not stay awake with me one hour and pray?", so we are also invited to **the Garden Watch hosted by St. James' Old Town from 8pm to 8am** by using the zoom link:*

<https://zoom.us/j/8546829191?pwd=T1B4RGVNUjJYeK4xbHJ4S3ZoaXVrUT09>