

## Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

This night, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples.

As he kneels before them, he risks, both literally and metaphorically, being kicked in the teeth.

Jesus comes to John, the beloved disciple, who has shared so much with him, but who, with his brother James, the Sons of Thunder, still wanted status and greatness. And Jesus washes his feet.

And Jesus comes to James, the other son of Zebedee, another member of the 'inner three'. James, who with John, wanted to sit by Jesus' side in heaven. And Jesus washes his feet.

And Jesus turns to Peter. Peter, who wants none of Jesus' washing at first, but then wants all of it. Peter, who in his enthusiasm keeps putting his foot in it. Peter, who Jesus knows will deny him. And Jesus washes his feet.

And Jesus comes to Andrew, Peter's brother. Andrew, who brought Peter, as Simon, to Jesus. Andrew, who brought the boy with the five loaves and two fish to Jesus. And this time, Jesus washes his feet.

Andrew Jesus moves on to Philip, who was instrumental in bringing Nathaneal to follow him. Philip, who couldn't think how to feed the 5,000. And Jesus washes his feet.

And Jesus comes to Thomas. Thomas, who so often seems to look on the gloomy side. Thomas, who will demand proof of Jesus' resurrection. And Jesus washes his feet.

And Jesus turns to Judas. Judas, who had such high hopes. Judas, who will betray Jesus. And Jesus washes his feet.

And Jesus comes to the other disciples who we know so little about. Ordinary people, the refugee, the wounded, the lonely. Ordinary people, just like us. And Jesus washes the feet of each one.

And now Jesus comes to you and kneels to wash your feet.....

As you feel the cool water touching your skin, you watch Jesus and think of the times that those hands have healed the sick, lifted small children, touched the outcast and unrolled the scroll of the Torah in the synagogue. But tonight, the hands of the Servant King are washing you with his love.

And tonight, he commands us to do likewise. To reach out, in whatever way we can, 'to wash' someone's feet with love.

Amen.