

CHRIST, OUR
PASSOVER
LAMB



A HOME-BASED GUIDE FOR
MAUNDY THURSDAY



*“A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.”*

John 13: 34-35 (NIV)

As Easter approaches, let us examine our hearts to reflect on the meaning and significance of the Cross this Maundy Thursday, 9th April 2020.

Due to *Covid-19* pandemic, we have put together this home guide for you and your household, to observe from the safety of your homes. Our prayer is that these suggested ritual would facilitate a meaningful time of personal reflection and group sharing. May you be drawn into a deeper appreciation of the love of God, revealed through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, as the fellowship of His Holy Spirit leads us all to experience His sweet, tangible presence.

On this day of the Holy Week, Shalom be upon your house.

Pastors and leaders of
Bartley Christian Church



Christian Practices & Meanings

Passover: Passover is an event where Israelites sacrifice a lamb on the 14th day of the month of Nisan and consume it with bread and wine on the 15th. Passover signifies the remembrance of the exodus of Israelites from Egypt. The link between the Passover Meal and the Lord's Supper is through bread and wine. However, Christ, is our Passover lamb. Every year at Easter, during the time of 'Christian Passover', we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We remember by taking the Lord's Supper, or Holy communion.

Maundy: The word 'Maundy' comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means mandate or a commandment. Maundy Thursday remembers the night when Jesus shared the *Passover* meal together with His disciples. It was on this faithful night that Jesus gave the command to love one another. Christians observe Maundy Thursday by reading accounts from Scripture, prayer, offering our worship through songs, partaking the Lord's Supper together and through Feet Washing.

Feet Washing: The greatest display of humility and obedience to a command, was demonstrated by our Lord Jesus when He washed the feet of all His disciples including his betrayer, Judas Iscariot. Jesus' example at the last supper with His disciples, demonstrated a new commandment to love and set the tone to how all of his disciples should treat one another; with Christian love, humility and service.

Things to Prepare:

For Communion:

- Bread or any substitutes such as wafer or crackers.
- Wine substitutes include Cranberry Juice or Ribena..etc.

For Feet Washing:

- A pail of water enough for the total number participants in the ritual.
- A pitcher or dipper to pour water over feet.
- A basin for feet washing.
- A towel for drying.
- A chair for the person to sit when his or her feet is being washed.

Program:

8.00pm: Introduction and Opening Prayer

8.05pm: Telling the story of the Passover

8.15pm: Jesus the Passover Lamb

8.25pm: Taking Communion together

8.40pm: Feet Washing

8.55pm: Reflection and Sharing

9.15pm: Closing Prayer



Opening Prayer

What you can do:

Gather the family and explain briefly what Maundy Thursday signifies and the symbolic gestures of the ritual. (*Refer to Christian Practices and Meaning*)

Open with a word of prayer and commit the time to the Lord.

Tell the Story of the Passover

What you can do:

Worship through song: It's Your Blood that cleanses me

(Click on music title for Youtube link)

Invite someone to read Exodus 12:1-13, which highlights the Old Testament account of the Passover and God's deliverance of the Israelites from the plague of death.

What you can say:

The shedding of the lamb's blood was crucial in evading the plague of death. The Israelites had to heed this warning and follow instructions by smearing the sacrificed blood of the lamb on their doorposts or else, they would face death too. Therefore, the lamb had to die to save the household. But as a result, God delivered the Israelites from slavery.

Jesus the Passover Lamb

What you can do:

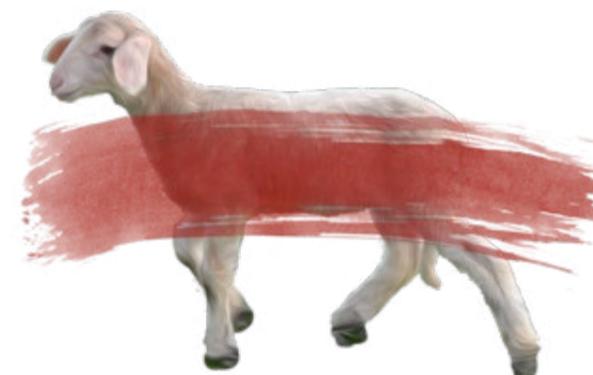
Worship through song: Behold the Lamb (Getty)

(Click on music title for Youtube link)

Invite someone to read John 1:29, to draw the parallel that Jesus, is the Lamb of God, which the Old Testament spoke of - the One whose blood would save us from death.

What you can say:

We see here in the New Testament that Jesus is the Lamb of God. John the Baptist said clearly that Jesus was the lamb that would take away the sins of the world. He did that when He went to the Cross to die for the sins of the world. This is significant especially as the time of His death coincided with the Passover Meal that the Israelites commemorated. While the Jews remembered God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt through the sacrificial lamb many years ago, Jesus, God's only Son, was chosen to be sacrificed so that all mankind may be delivered from the slavery of sin!





Feet Washing Ritual

Invite someone to read John 13:1-14 for the account of the Feet Washing.

You may also watch this video ([click here](#)) that depicts the account where Jesus washed His disciples' feet.

Prepare the feet washing area and explain the roles for each participant. (i.e., when to pour the water into the basin, who wipes dry with towel, etc.)

Before you begin, encourage the participants to observe what others are doing and to be aware of their emotions and thought processes throughout the ritual.

Allow anyone who is not comfortable or unable to participate to simply observe the ritual. If children are participants, guide them through gently yet firmly with seriousness.

Take turns to wash each other's feet (e.g., spouse to spouse, parent to child, child to sibling...etc.) until everyone is done.

When the ritual is complete, pause for a while to remember the what Jesus said about washing each other's feet. Read John 13:12-17.

Close with a short prayer.



Partaking Communion Together

What you can do:

Invitation

Remind each other this invitation comes from Jesus Himself. (Luke 14:15-24)

Preparing the Bread and Cup

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 13:23-26 on Paul's account of The Lord's Supper.

Distribution

Give thanks for the elements and distribute them to everyone.

Pause for a time of personal reflection before partaking Communion together.

A Response of Thanksgiving or Prayer for the Work of Christ

Passing the Peace

"Peace be with you", is a greeting Jesus himself used with his disciples.

Practice community in Christ as you pass the your peace to each other.

What you can say:

As we take the communion together with these elements which represents Jesus' blood and body, we remember the Lord's love and sacrifice on the Cross. We come to the table and remember as the Israelites did, of God's deliverance because of the sacrificial blood of the Lamb. And while the Israelites celebrate Passover only once a year, the apostle Paul encourages us to do so as often as we can, to remember and celebrate what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Thanks be to God: Christ makes us one. The peace of Christ be with you all.



Closing

What you can do to before you close the gathering:

Ponder on the words of this song: Gethsemane Hymn (Getty)

(Click on music title for Youtube link)

Close with a final prayer. After this time, you may ask participants to remain silent for a while more before inviting people to share.

Reflection and Sharing

Invite each person to give thanks based on what they have experienced.

Here are some reflection questions for personal or group sharing:

1. In your own words, explain why Christians observe Maundy Thursday and what is its significance for us?
2. Which part of the rituals stood out most to you? Why?
3. Share something you learnt about communion from Scripture?
4. Were you uncomfortable washing the feet of others? How did you feel to have your feet washed? Share your own experience.
5. What can we learn about the way Jesus taught us to love one another?
6. If Jesus knew He will be betrayed and crucified, why do you think He chose to go ahead? Share any evidence you find from Scripture.
7. How has tonight's experience changed the way you view the Christ, our Passover lamb? How would you live your life differently from now on?

The Peace of Christ be with you.