

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

*1 April 2010, A'Chleit*

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*On/beside the table: a candle; a pilgrims staff; a cup & paten, bread & wine; jug & washing basin, cloth*

### Welcome & Intimations

#### Opening responses<sup>1</sup>

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
YOU WILL ABIDE IN THE SHADOW OF SHADDAI.  
You will not fear the terror of the night,  
FOR GOD IS YOUR SHIELD, A WALL AROUND YOU.

**Psalm** : 'Lord, bless and pity us' (CH 45)

#### Prayer<sup>2</sup>

God of Moses,  
God of Jesus,  
you loved the world so much  
that you sent your Son not to condemn the world  
but that through him the world might be saved.  
As we are confronted again  
with the depth of human wickedness  
and the greater depth of your divine compassion,  
may we not remain unmoved.  
As Christ's arms are stretched out  
and his body lifted up,  
may we confess our part in the sin of the world,  
repent of it,  
know the reality of your forgiveness,  
and be transformed.  
Amen.

**Torah Reading** : Exodus 12:1-12 (*New Revised Standard Version*)  
*+ readings said by three readers*

**Song** : 'How can I ever thank the Lord' (CH 76)

**Epistel Reading** : 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

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<sup>1</sup> From Psalm 91, after Jan de Jongh, *De honderd dagen rond pasen*. Liturgie maken in de tijd van Aswoensdag tot Pinksteren (Zoetermeer: Meinema, 1997, 2e dr.) p84.

<sup>2</sup> *Common Order* 1994, p 437f, adapted.

**Poem** : 'Christ the Priest above us', an ancient Celtic hymn<sup>3</sup>

Christ the Priest above us,  
Ordained of God for all living.  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

Tonight, the night of the cross of agony,  
The cross of anguish to which Christ was crucified.  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

Noble the Gift! noble the Poor!  
Noble the Man of this night.  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

It was Bride the fair who went on her knee,  
It is the King of glory who is in her lap.  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

I hear the hills, I hear the seas,  
I hear the angels heralding to earth  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

I hear Cairbre of the shapely, rounded limbs,  
Coming softly in friendship to us.  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

Great the assemblage upon this knoll,  
Without the envy of man to another.  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

I am servant of God the Son at the door,  
Oh! arise thou thyself and open to me.  
CHRIST THE PRIEST ABOVE US.

**Gospel Reading** : John 13:1-15 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

**Silence**

**Chant** : 'Ubi caritas' (CH 801)

**The Story**<sup>4</sup>

We gather around this table  
because we proclaim and confess

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<sup>3</sup> Alexander Carmichael (ed.), *Carmina Gadelica*. Hymns and incantations with illustrative notes on words, rites, and customs, dying and obsolete: orally collected in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and translated into English. Vol. 1 (Edinburgh: Norman Macleod, 1900) p161

<sup>4</sup> The words of this liturgy for communion are inspired by *A Wee Worship Book* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) p84-90.

that this is the Lord's table  
at which all are welcome.  
And with David we can sing:  
*You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
my cup overflows.*

Jesus was a guest at many tables,  
with Peter, Jairus, Matthew and Cleopas,  
with Martha, Mary, Joanna and Susanna –  
Jesus was always a guest.

He taught and challenged many,  
he comforted and judged some,  
but he always shared the love of God  
with everyone at the table.

Here and now at this our table,  
Jesus is the host,  
inviting and inciting us  
to share the love of God among ourselves  
and with the whole world we live in.

Those who wish to serve the Lord  
must first be served by him;  
those who want to follow Jesus  
must first be fed by him;  
those who would wash his feet  
must first be cleansed by him.

For this is the table  
where God wants us to be nourished,  
and this is the time  
when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst  
for a deeper faith,  
for a better life,  
for a fairer world –  
the Lord is our host tonight.

### **The Grace**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.  
IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right indeed,  
for you make us,

and all around us you make the world we inhabit,  
and even wider than that you make the heavens  
to which Christ is our entry.

All that is spectacular,  
all that is plain  
have their origin in you;  
all that is lovely,  
all who are loving  
point to you as their fulfilment.

And grateful for the world we know  
and the universe beyond our ken,  
we particularly praise you,  
whom eternity cannot contain,  
for meeting us on this earth in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living,  
for his compassion which changes our hearts,  
for his clear speaking  
which contradicts our harmless generalities,  
for his disturbing presence,  
    his innocent suffering,  
    his fearless dying,  
    his rising to life, breathing forgiveness,  
we worship you and praise him.

God of truth and grace,  
we pray to you:  
send your Spirit to settle on this bread and wine  
and fill them with the fullness of Jesus;  
and let that Spirit rest on us,  
converting us  
from the wicked patterns of this world  
until we conform  
to the ways of the world to come.  
Feed and nourish us at your table  
and make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.  
Amen.

## **The Sharing**

## **The Peace**

## **Prayer**

In gratitude for this moment,

this meal,  
these people,  
we give ourselves to you.  
Take us outside, O God,  
to live as changed people,  
for we have shared the Living Bread,  
we drank the wine of your Kingdom,  
and cannot remain the same.  
May we live to your glory, LORD,  
both as inhabitants of this earth  
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.  
Amen.

**Closing hymn** : 'Sing my soul' (*words: John L. Bell; tune: Servant Song*)

Sing, my soul, when hope is sleeping,  
sing when faith gives way to fears;  
sing to melt the ice of sadness,  
making way for joy through tears.

Sing, my soul, when sickness lingers,  
sing to dull the sharpest pain;  
sing to set the Spirit leaping:  
healing needs a glad refrain.

Sing, my soul, of him who shaped me,  
let me wander far away,  
ran with open arms to greet me,  
brought me home again to stay.

Sing, my soul, when light seems darkest,  
sing when night refuses rest,  
sing though death should mock the future:  
what's to come by God is blessed.

**Closing responses**<sup>5</sup>

The cross,  
WE SHALL TAKE IT;  
the bread,  
WE SHALL BREAK IT;  
the pain,  
WE SHALL BEAR IT;  
the joy,  
WE SHALL SHARE IT;  
the Gospel,

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<sup>5</sup> *A Wee Worship Book* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) p102.

WE SHALL LIVE IT;  
the love,  
WE SHALL GIVE IT;  
the light,  
WE SHALL CHERISH IT;  
the darkness,  
GOD SHALL PERISH IT.  
AMEN.