

Maundy Thursday

Jesus calls us to Love One Another

On Maundy Thursday He also prepares us by His example to become servants in this love. Holy Friendship is the key to the Kingdom.

The church has created many rituals which we Episcopalians call sacramental when they are intended to be outward and visible signs of God's infinite and invisible grace.

Baptism and Eucharist are our 2 primary Sacraments AND all life is sacramental when we seek and discover the extraordinary graces which God offers in creation. Living sacramentally is living authentically and genuinely with the kind of agape love which Jesus taught. Living sacramentally is the opposite of taking anything for granted, good or bad, sorrowful or joyful. All is gathered up in the stream of God's mercy.

Foot washing is the sacrament most often associated with this evening. And it is my hope to reenact that holy moment in the Upper Room with you another time, but sometimes we forget the sacramental value of stripping the altar, revealing the essential nature of God's grace, table fellowship, sharing bread wine and communion, touching lives,

The table is more than a table when remembered this way. The table becomes an altar when we bless it as Jacob was blessed by the wrestling and wounding angel, when he placed a stone in the place where God had been revealed.

That is what we do tonight. We prepare the altar, we strip away any excess that we might anoint it as Mary anointed the Christ the anointed one. For God is in this place, and sometimes we hardly know. The real presence of Christ is celebrated in Eucharistic language every Sunday.

Tonight we have the opportunity to sacramentalize this table. To devotedly, reverently and silently, allow it to be for us the hyphen to Christ, to prepare it as though Christ's body, to outwardly and visibly demonstrate the depth of our love and readiness to go to the cross with Him, to remain with Him, to pray with Him and to roll away the stone that we might experience the power of the Resurrection when all things are made new and God draws very very near!