

A prayer of response

Messiah I come,
Brought to my knees by astonishing grace.

In the presence of such humility
From one so great
What can I do but kneel and praise?

Messiah I come,
Challenged to bow to the King who kneels.

I want to pour out mercy and bring tender healing,
But I am proud, judgmental, and self-absorbed
And you are the only one
who can lead me to first-becoming-last greatness.

I would wash and serve, wash and love,
Like you do.

But first Lord Jesus,
Wash my feet, cleanse my heart
Till I am – like you –
Humble and ready on my knees.

(Written by Nigel Varndell, and published on the Sanctuary Centre website:

http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/daily_meditations_and_response_prayers_for_Holy_Week.pdf)

Maundy Thursday Benediction

So may the blessing of the God who calls the people out of Egypt
call us out from our comfort and our safety
to embrace a journey of challenge and risk

May the blessing of the Son who kneels and washes our feet
call us out from our comfort and our safety
to embrace and serve those we meet on the journey

May the blessing of the Spirit who weaves dreams of a new community
call us out from our comfort and our safety
to provide welcome and hospitality to strangers as well as friends.

(Written by Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood, and posted on the Church of
Scotland's website: <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>)

Maundy Thursday Prayer

Gracious God,
As those who strive to follow Jesus in our living
and to trust your power in our dying,
we gather to reflect upon the life that ended on a cross.

We recognize in ourselves
the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples:
although they loved him,
they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal
Jesus washed their feet in service, and then
extended the bread and cup to each.
Jesus called them to love one another,
and invited them to share in his very life
and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

We are humbled, honoured and inspired
by the deep love Christ extended to the world,
and we take seriously the calling
to be the body of Christ today.

Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you,
and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful living.
Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it,
with love and compassion for each creature and all of your creation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray to you ...

[Lord's Prayer]

(Written by Kelly Burd and posted on the United Church of Christ website:
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-b/le/lent-maundy-thursday.html>)

Closing Prayer

O Jesus, in this Holy Week you prayed
that we would love one another
as you have loved us.

Tonight we have tried to practice what you have taught us!

Let the love, joy and humility
we have known here with our families
continue to bless us,
and let us share that blessing with world
you love and gave your life for.

May the peace we feel together in this place
Point us toward the hope of Easter.

Amen.

(Written by Lutie O. Lee, and posted on the United Church of Christ's website:
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/le/easter-with-humility-and.html>)