

Dear all,

Tomorrow, we enter into what is sometimes referred to as the Triduum, the Three Days before Easter.

Maundy Thursday, as you are probably aware, is named after the New Commandment (mandatum – mandate), which Jesus gave His disciples after he had washed their feet. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34).

John doesn't actually mention the Last Supper as such, but he includes the washing of their feet – before the Passover, during supper. He then gives a discourse at length, which includes 'I am the true vine', 'I am the way, the truth and the life', 'I will send you another comforter', and what is known as the 'High Priestly Prayer (John 14-17). It is all about how the disciples can and should live their lives once Jesus is no longer physically with them. After this, He goes to His betrayal.

John has evidently learned this important lesson, as his 3 letters are full of love. The most blatant statement can be seen in 1 John 4:7-8 - *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

The excellent but challenging American preacher, Nadia Bolz-Weber has said that it is her aim to mention God's love in every sermon she preaches. I would hope to do that too – feel free to challenge me if I don't!

The lectionary readings for tomorrow are: Exodus 12: 1-14; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; and John 13: 1-17, 31b-35. The Psalm is Psalm 116.

The hymns for the service are Prepare a room for me (I can't find a video for this), [An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare \(Tune: O Waly Waly - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#), and [O Thou Who at Thy Eucharist Didst Pray \(Tune: Song 1 - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#).

Anglican Chant [Psalm 116 - YouTube](#) (from our own cathedral).

And a version from the Sons of Korah [Psalm 116 - by Sons of Korah \(w/ lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

And in Hebrew [Psalm 116 sung in Hebrew \[Ahavti\] - תהלים קטז - אהבתי כי ישמע \[NEW HALLEL TUNE\] - YouTube](#)

Anthems suggested for the lectionary readings include:

[Greater love hath no man - Ireland - YouTube](#)

[Edward Cuthbert Bairstow: Though I speak with the tongues of men - YouTube](#)

[Durufilé - Ubi Caritas - Maîtrise Notre-Dame de Paris - YouTube](#)

[Nos autem gloriari - Grayston Ives - YouTube](#)

The devotional writer, Nick Fawcett, has been producing devotional meditations for Holy Week, which may be found here. [Holy Week Archives - Nick Fawcett \(devotional and reflective writer\)](#)

The historian and theologian Diarmaid MacCulloch has just started a Radio 3 series on the place of silence in Christianity. The BBC blurb about it states this:

*'Talking about Silence' is a personal pilgrimage around an enjoyable paradox: that you can understand silence better if you talk about it. In his new series of essays, Diarmaid MacCulloch explores the many varieties of spiritual silence in human life and beyond, and what he's learned of its meanings in his six-decade career as a historian of religion.*

*Framed by his memories of filming at some of the most significant Christian sites in the world for his landmark TV series on the history of Christianity, Diarmaid explores how even though Christianity has been a religion of the word, it cannot escape silence, because silence is wrapped up in the lived experiences of Christians through time. He presents silence in all its different forms: as the truest expression of the divine, as well as a vehicle of the greatest evil, over the course of Christianity's two thousand years of existence.*

*In his first essay, Diarmaid MacCulloch introduces us to the theme of silence and how he has returned to the subject at key points during his career. Looking back on his life, Diarmaid sees it was a path laid down from the beginning, which sprang from the experience of a happy but isolated country parsonage childhood: alert already to history and its delights, but also alert as a gay teenager to the way in which things are not said, and what the meaning of that silence is. The hero of Diarmaid's favourite story is the little boy who told the crowd that the emperor had no clothes on. That, says Diarmaid, is what his whole career writing and teaching history has been devoted to: showing up the Emperors with no clothes and ending the silences that need ending.*

Here is the link.

[The Essay - Talking about Silence - An Invitation to Silence - BBC Sounds](#)



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

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