

Salt – Light – Hope

reflections and care for those who serve in pandemic
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April 9 Maundy Thursday



"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).

As you study this painting of the Upper Room encounter by Ford Madox Brown, what do you see? Where do the eyes of your heart focus? Perhaps you see the deep, beautiful humility in the act of washing the disciples' feet, a simple act that reveals the puffery of human arrogance and ambition.

Maybe you're struck by the radical example of servanthood that empties Self, even body and blood, for Others.

Or it could be Christ's complete openness in this moment, his vulnerability that discomfits us with its closeness in this time of pandemic threat. Perhaps you see the lasting promise latent in the remnants of bread and wine left on the table. My heart is drawn to the disciple holding his head in his hands, overcome, overawed, unsettled by this Rabbi Jesus.

Though we are apart on this Maundy Thursday, this Upper Room encounter draws us together, and Christ's new commandment to love one another this deeply, this completely pursues us with its promise.

Please pray with me—

God of the covenant—

In these trying days, we come to the Lord's Table,

Vulnerable in our longing,

Hopeful in our uncertainty,

Humble in our flawed humanity.

Renew us through Christ's example, that we may empty ourselves
to radically love and serve one another. Amen and amen.