LOVE FEAST AT HOME
Prepared for Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, Kettering, OH

Love Feast for the Family
This Love Feast liturgy is for a family of 2 or more. It includes a Reader, who helps guide the service by reading out loud. This role can be assigned to one person or shared amongst a few. *Words in italics are actions and are not to read out loud.* We know this is likely different from the Love Feast you’re accustomed to, but to honor Maundy Thursday we have prepared a service for you to share as a couple or a family. You may honor Love Feast in small groups this week, but in time we will gather together for a Love Feast with our community. May this time be a blessing to you and your family.

Before you sit down to begin the service it would be helpful to gather these supplies beforehand.

**Needed Supplies:**
- A Bible
- A candle and a lighter/matches
- Tubs and towels for feetwashing/handwashing
- A meal to share together
- Small piece of bread (or crackers, or chip, etc)/ per person
- Small cup of juice (or water, or milk, etc)/ per person

**Time for Reflection**
**Reader:** Tonight, we’re practicing Love Feast in a very different way from what we’re used to. Instead of gathering together at church, we’re gathered around our dinner tables in smaller groups. May we remember that God is with us wherever two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name.

*Light the candle.*

**Read: Matthew 5:23-25**

**Reader:** Our Matthew scripture reminds us that a hard heart or broken relationships can get in the way of worshipping God. Jesus encourages us to leave our time of worship to make things right with brothers or sisters whom we may have wronged. As we sit around the table, are their family members from whom we need to seek forgiveness today? These are stressful and uncertain times, there may be heavy feelings that we carry with us tonight. Perhaps, there is mourning that we need to name because we are unable to practice Love Feast together as a church community.

As we enter into Love Feast, let us take a few moments to reflect on how we are doing personally, with one another, and with God. Let’s take a moment and consider these questions as we come before God:
- Is there someone whom you need to reach out to and ask forgiveness? Ask God to show you a way to reconcile with this person.
• Are feelings of disappointment and sadness getting in the way of entering into this time? Ask God to release you from these feelings and hand them over to God to carry for you.

Allow a few moments for silent reflection or reconciliation.

Reader:
Please pray with me.
Loving God,
Who is honored in the presence of 2 or 200,
We offer our hearts and our time to you this evening.
Make us and mold us in the shape of your will and love.
Do not let ill feelings, broken relationships, or sadness,
hinder us from honoring and remembering the sacrifice of Jesus, our Lord.
Empower us to right wrongs, release heavy feelings,
and enter this time wholly present, and wholly yours.
In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.

Feetwashing or Handwashing

Read: John 13:1-17

Reader: One significant meaning behind the practice of Love Feast is the symbolic washing away of sin. When we wash feet and have our feet washed, it’s a moment to give and receive forgiveness. The waters can remind us of our baptism and the commitments we’ve made to “forgive others, just as in Christ, God forgives you” (Eph 4:32). Service and love for others is another core meaning behind the act of feetwashing. Jesus modeled care for his friends and his enemies through the washing of his disciples’ feet.

May we remember the promises we made at our own baptism. May the waters of forgiveness and love wash over us. May we serve and care for each other in a special way. May we remember the sacrifice and love that Jesus showed his disciples and bestows on each one of us.

Let us enter into a time of feetwashing.

The Act of Feetwashing: Choose someone to start. Take a basin and wash the feet of the person on your left. Dry off their feet and offer them an embrace. You can share a blessing like, “God bless you;” or “I love you.” Then pass them the towel and they in turn wash the feet of the person on their left. And it continues until everyone’s feet have been washed.

It’s a good idea to wash your hands with soap and water after everyone’s feet have been washed.

The Agape Meal
If you haven’t already, gather around your dinner table.

Read: Luke 10:38-42

Reader: Jesus loved to eat meals with his disciples, with sinners, with outcasts, and with anyone who would join him. Jesus sat down with his disciples to partake in a final meal together before the events of the Passion would take place. He understood the importance of spiritual and physical nourishment. Remember as we eat dinner tonight, that the physical mattered to Jesus and he sat down to eat with people many, many times. He provided for people when they were hungry and cared for people when they were sick—our bodies and their needs matter to Jesus.

In choosing to sit down and eat together and honor Love Feast, we have done the holy work of Mary and Martha. We have provided a meal for ourselves and are taking a moment to sit at the feet of Jesus. We are nourishing our bodies and are taking time to nourish our souls. We are taking time to honor this holy day and remember the sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Let’s bless our meal. Please join me in prayer:
God of the Table,
We thank you for the food that you have provided for us and for it’s long journey from the fields to our table. Bless every hand that brought it to us and those that prepared it today.
May this time of eating be a blessing to the nourishment of our bodies and our souls.
In the name of Jesus, who ate with friends and sinners, we pray, Amen.

Enjoy your meal! Feel free to visit and talk, we imagine Jesus’ disciples did. If you’d like you can use the following discussion questions to help focus your conversation.

Discussion Questions, if needed:
● What was the highlight of your day today?
● What are you grateful for today?
● Where have you seen God at work recently?
● What is your favorite Love Feast memory?

Communion
Reader: The practice of partaking in the bread and the cup is a symbolic reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus and our inclusion in the body of Christ. This ritual involves blessing ordinary elements of bread and juice usually done by the Pastors during Love Feast. Yet, our faith recognizes that we are all ministers and God’s holiness can be found in every moment. May we know that the bread which we eat and the cup which we drink are blessed and holy elements of communion.

Read 1 Corinthians 11: 23-25
Reader:
Please pray with me.
Holy God,
You sent your only son to commune with us,
So that we may experience the fullness of life.
Bless these ordinary items of bread and juice,
So that in sharing them we may remember
And honor the sacrifice of Jesus.
Empower us to be full members of the body of Christ,
Showing love, practicing service, and glorifying God
In all that we do.
In Jesus name, Amen.

Reader: Bread is an ordinary food item and honestly, may be hard to find on the shelves these days.
This element of bread represents the body of Christ, which was broken for us. In sharing in the breaking of bread, we honor the sacrifice of Jesus born out of love for us. May this symbol of Christ’s body empower us to live as fully members of the body of Christ, the hands of feet and Jesus.

Let’s say together:
“The bread which we break is communion of the body of Christ.”

Take and Eat.

Partake in your bread, the body of Christ.

Reader: Juice is a tart, sweet reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of all. This cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. In sharing in the cup, we honor the compassion and love that Jesus pours out for each of us. May this symbol of Christ’s blood inspire us to live lives that are poured out for others in love.

Let’s say together:
“The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.”

Take and Drink.

Partake of your juice, the blood of Christ.

Closing
Reader: “The service isn’t over; it is only beginning. What we have practiced tonight is not a series of holy acts, separate from life. Rather these acts have been a reminder that we belong to Christ always
and everywhere. We carry the love of Christ in our home, our daily activity, and all our relationships. We are members of the body of Christ. By God’s grace let it be so.”¹

*Continue your fellowship as you share the responsibilities of cleaning up together!*

**Fellowshipping with Others:**
If you would like to reflect on your Maundy Thursday experience and fellowship with others, you can join a Zoom Call at 8:00pm on Thursday, April 9th.

Here is the information to connect:
1. You can join by landline or cellphone by calling: **1-929-205-6099** and then entering the **Meeting ID: 305-386-6306**, followed by the **password: 545078**.
2. You can join by computer by following the link provided in the weekly emails.

¹ Adapted from *For all who minister*, 219.