

Maundy Thursday Host Guide



LAGUNA BEACH UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

A Note From Worship Planning



Dear Maundy Thursday Hosts,

Thank you for opening your space and heart this Holy Week. This year, we're inviting our church family to experience Maundy Thursday in a more personal way: gathered in small groups for reflection, scripture, prayer, and a simple act of service. Your role isn't to lead a full worship service, but to help create a space of welcome, connection, and meaning.

Inside this guide, you'll find everything you need: an order of worship, scripture readings, discussion prompts, a curated playlist, and a short video from Pastor Courtney. Whether your group knows each other well or is newly formed, your hospitality will help create a sacred space. We hope that this evening leaves gentle "watermarks" in our lives – reminders that love was shared, and God's presence was felt.

With gratitude,

The Worship Planning Team

Laguna Beach United Methodist Church



What You Need for the Gathering



What is Included From Us

- Foot/hand washing bins
- Order of worship
- Scripture readings
- Unison poem: *Water Marks*
- Discussion prompts
- “A Word of Welcome” video or letter from Pastor Courtney
- Curated music playlist

What You Will Provide

- Your home and discussion space
- A simple meal, snack, or potluck setup
- Water for the food/hand washing
- Clean hand towels for drying
- A Bible (if not printing scriptures)
- Internet access (if using the video and playlist)

Welcome Video and Music QR Code:



A word of welcome from Pastor Courtney and background music recommended from our music ministry for your gathering,

Link: www.lbumc.org/maundythursday



Order of Worship

- Welcome
- “A Word of Welcome” Video or Letter from Pastor Courtney
- Prayer Before Refreshments
- Refreshments & Discussion
- Scripture Readings
- Foot/Hand Washing
- Unison Poem Reading
- Time for Prayer and Fellowship



A Word of Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Maundy Thursday small group worship! Today, we gather in homes to reflect on one of the most profound and meaningful moments in our Christian faith. Maundy Thursday, observed during Holy Week, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples – a time when He not only shared bread and wine, instituting the practice of Communion that we continue today, but also demonstrated a powerful act of humility and love by washing His disciples' feet.

As we come together, we are invited to enter into this sacred moment, where Jesus taught us the essence of servant leadership and the call to love and serve one another. Through washing feet or hands, sharing scripture, praying together, and breaking bread in fellowship, we not only remember His actions but also seek to embody His example in our lives.

This gathering offers us a chance to pause and reflect on the themes of love, service, and sacrifice that Maundy Thursday embodies. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the journey through Good Friday and to anticipate the joy of Easter Sunday.

Whether this is a familiar tradition or something new, we pray that this shared experience will deepen your understanding and inspire you to continue walking in the way of Christ. May this time together nourish your spirit and strengthen our bonds as a community of faith.

Come, let us worship, serve, and remember.

With gratitude,

Rev. Courtney Mackey

Laguna Beach United Methodist Church

**View this letter
in video format by
scanning here:**



SCRIPTURE READINGS

We invite each guest to participate in sharing this moment of reading scripture at their comfort level.

Philippians 2:1-11

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus, every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Continued

John 13:1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.



DISCUSSION PROMPTS

When you think of the word “service”,
what’s the first thing that comes to mind?

Why do you think Jesus chose something as ordinary
and earthly as foot washing to show his love?

If you have experienced a Maundy Thursday before,
what has it looked like?

Have you ever experienced someone serving you
in a humbling way? How did that impact you?

Where in your life might you need to slow
down and receive care or grace?



Preparing for the Foot/Hand Washing

Creating a Space of Grace and Care

The foot or hand washing moment can be a deeply meaningful and symbolic act of love and service, but it's also important to approach it with sensitivity. **Let your group know that participation is entirely optional – this is a space of grace, not pressure.** You might offer hand washing as an alternative to foot washing, or invite guests simply to observe if that's more comfortable. Setting a peaceful tone can make the moment more impactful; consider playing soft background music or offering a moment of silence or prayer beforehand. **Prepare a small station with a basin or bowl, a pitcher of warm water, and towels for drying** – placing a towel underneath the basin is helpful in case of spills. **Guests may choose to pair off, form a circle, or take turns in whatever way feels most natural to your group.** Before beginning, you might say a few words to frame the experience, such as: **"This simple act reminds us of Jesus' love and humility – serving others with gentleness and grace."** The goal is not to perform the act perfectly, but to offer one another a tender sign of care and connection.



Unison Poem Reading



Water Marks

Jesus probably knelt down.
He probably took Peter's heel
in his hands
to wash his feet.
And I wonder if they both thought of Jacob—
the heel-grabber,
the trickster who wrestled
with God.
I wonder if it felt like a do-over,
a fresh start for creation.
I wonder if the basin overflowed
when Jesus poured the water out.
I wonder if it splashed,
leaving water marks on the floor—
proof that love was really there.
I wonder if I would have let Jesus do the same.
Would I have been like Peter and said,
"Not just my feet but my head and my hands"?
I suppose I can look at my life today
and answer the question.
Have I allowed myself to be loved?
Are there water marks on the floor?

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



FAQ

→ “What is Maundy Thursday?”

Maundy Thursday is the night we remember Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples. It’s when he washed their feet, shared a final meal, and gave a new commandment: to love one another. This gathering helps us reflect on that love through scripture, prayer, and service.

→ “What kind of food should I serve?”

A simple meal or light refreshments is perfect. This could be potluck-style, a few snacks, or something more depending on your comfort and time.

→ “How should I set up my space?”

Arrange seating in a circle or around a table to encourage conversation. Set aside an area for the hand/foot washing station with towels and a basin nearby.

→ “What if someone asks a hard question or shares something personal?”

Just listen with compassion. You don’t have to have answers—this is about creating space, not solving problems.

→ “What if I have a question that is not here?”

If you need help accessing the website for the video/music or questions about the content, email Megan Waters (music@lbumc.org). If you have questions about hosting or your participants, email Dawn Molt (dawnmolt@icloud.com).





Thank You

Your hospitality brings this day to life.

Thank you for opening your home and your heart this Maundy Thursday. Because of you, others will experience the sacred story of Jesus' love in a warm, personal, and meaningful way. Your hospitality helps create a space for connection, reflection, and grace – a space where scripture comes alive, where hearts can open, and where the simple act of gathering becomes holy. We know that being a host is more than just setting the table or organizing a few details. It's a gift of presence. And we are so grateful for yours.

