

**Maundy Thursday Agape Meal**  
**Gethsemane Presbyterian Church**  
**(Adapted from various sources—see notes on last page)**

Gather all supplies ahead of time. Prepare the table:

- Set the table for a special dinner (white table cloth, best dishes and cups).
- Place a large bowl of water and a towel on the table
- Have a basket filled with cut out “feet” and pens (optional)
- Set out a plate with symbolic Passover foods
- Set out a plate or basket with bread, and a cup of wine

**Servant Hearts — Read John 13:1-17**

**Foot Washing:**

Take turns washing each other’s feet (if all are physically able). You may choose to wash each other’s hands instead (especially appropriate this year, as we are conscious of the need for hand-washing as protection against Covid-19).

**Discussion:**

The word Maundy means commandment. What commandment does Jesus give to us in this passage? Why do you think Jesus washed the disciple’s feet? If this story was set in modern times, what act do you think that Jesus would do for his friends to show them how to be a servant? (You can use the cut out feet patterns to write your ideas)

**Passover — Read Exodus 12: 1-13, 17-18**

**History:**

Passover is the oldest and most important religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God’s deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people. It is customary to invite guests to share the Seder meal, especially newcomers to the community. The actual Seder meal in most Jewish homes is an elaborate feast, with food, games for the children, and plenty of time to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. It is not unusual for a Seder to last three to four hours. Many Christian communities have adapted the Seder meal as a way to understand our connection with the Jewish Faith. Tonight, we will remember the Passover by learning about some of the symbols used in the traditional Seder meal.

## Sharing:

Pass the Seder plate and explain the symbolism of each item. Everyone can serve themselves a bit to taste.

**Unleavened bread:** Crackers, store-bought matzot, pita or homemade unleavened bread. The matzot are symbolic of the three groups of Jews: Priests, Levites and Israelites. They also commemorate the three measures of fine flour that Abraham told Sarah to bake into matzah when they were visited by the three angels ([Genesis 18:6](#)).

**Lamb:** A piece of roasted meat can be used to represent the lamb that was the special paschal sacrifice on the eve of the exodus from Egypt.

**Hard-Boiled Egg:** A hard-boiled egg represents the pre-holiday offering (chagigah) that was brought in the days of the Holy Temple. The meat of this animal constituted the main part of the Passover meal.

**Bitter Herbs (Maror):** prepared horseradish and/or fresh romaine lettuce. Bitter herbs remind us of the bitterness of the slavery of our forefathers in Egypt.

**Charoset:** Mixture of apples and nuts (see recipe link on last page), which resembles the mortar and brick made by the Jews when they toiled for Pharaoh.

**Karpas:** Parsley, called karpas in Hebrew. This vegetable alludes to the backbreaking work of the Jews as slaves

## Remember — Read Luke 22: 17-20

### The Bread and the Cup:

The broken bread of redemption reminds us of the broken body of our Lord Jesus Christ that was broken for us. We remember that Jesus died for us, and we accept the grace of God that brings freedom from bondage to sin.

The cup reminds us of the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that was spilled because of us and on our behalf. We remember that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, and we accept the grace that transforms us and brings us from darkness into His marvelous light, and allows us to be people of God.

## Sending —

Share the bread and the cup as part of your agape feast (Christian communal meal). Begin the meal with your family blessing, and end reciting the Lord's Prayer together.

This resource was created using portions from several online resources:

[Holy Week At Home](#) from Building Faith, a ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary

[The Passover Seder for Christians](#) from The Voice, Christian Resource Institute

[Recipes for Charoset](#) from The Voice, Christian Resource Institute

[The Seder Plate from](#) Chabad.org