

Maundy Thursday

It has been said that Jesus didn't come to teach us how to be more spiritual, he came to teach us how to be more human. Probably no night more than tonight makes that point.

In those days, it wasn't just your Rector who wore slippers all the time, everyone was always in slippers. And the roads, such as they were, were dusty, dirty and, depending on the weather, very muddy.

When it came time to eat, especially at important meals like the Passover, the meal Jesus took the 12 to the upper room to share, having clean feet was a must. People didn't eat sitting in chairs like we do. They reclined, foot to head, on pillows, around a table that is low to the ground.

You can see why clean feet are appreciated!

It was a servant's job to clean feet.

And one can imagine as the apostles gathered in that upper room, each looking around and wondering --- who's going to wash our feet?

"Not me," each of them likely thought.

Maybe they thought, since Jesus arranged for the room and the donkey, maybe he arranged for someone to do the dirty work.

Of course he had.

But it's not whom they expected.

Only hours before he is arrested, only a day before he dies, Jesus continues to walk the walk of service; and this night, in a very explicit, very concrete, way, taking the job of the lowest slave.

Jesus, once again, teaches them, teaches us, what the Way of God looks like.

It looks like bread. It looks like wine. It looks like newly washed feet.

The Way of God brings us right down to earth.

The Way of God is found in an outstretched hand, around the potluck table, it is found in our clean up days, in our time working together in the garden.

So in a moment, you are all invited to come up. Sit in a chair and feel the water on your feet.

Risk the embarrassment, the feeling of shyness or shame. Risk it, and come up.

And as you are washed, then go, and do the same to others.

For you see, Jesus didn't come to teach us how to be more spiritual, he came to teach us how to be more human.

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