**Sunday Morning – 26th April 2020**

Song – Ancient Words - Michael W Smith

‘We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart’

**Welcome**

Whilst we were waiting for the service to begin we listened to the song ‘Ancient Words’ reminding us of the crucial place the Bible has in our faith – it is the word of God, on which everything we believe is founded. Ancient words at least 2,000 years old, different authors, types of literature, times but the same God. In the New Testament we have the words of Jesus – the Word of God.

We will reflect on a few passages today - may we come with open hearts and let the ancient words impart (make (information) known) and impact on our lives and worship. I won’t comment very much but let the words speak for themselves and let each of us personally reflect on them.

In preparation for this morning, in addition to asking you to get your own bread and wine for communion, I supplied on the MM group email a number of resources to help us understand the significance and wonder of the communion meal. I am not going to go over again the areas the resources covered but don’t worry if you didn’t know about them or have time to look at them they will all be available on the website. As will a recording of this service.

In the resources there was a comparison of all the Bible accounts that mention the Last Supper – set alongside each other in topics for easy comparison plus internet links to two presentations on the Passover by ‘Jews for Jesus’ and also a Spring Harvest seminar.

**Notices – all details on website**

* Monday morning 10-12 Zoom Coffee Pot
* Tuesday 8pm – Zoom Bible study on book of Ephesians
* Thursday 8.05pm – Zoom Prayer meeting
* Sunday 10am - Zoom morning service – Colin
* If can’t make the meetings live recordings of the Bible Study and Sunday Service will be put onto on the web site
* In addition, each week on the web site is a downloadable thought from Steve Morley

**Opening Thought and Prayer before Bible readings – songs of praise – personal prayer and reflection**

* This is Holy space
* God is here you are welcome
* This is your space to be with God and
* God’s space to be with you
* Make yourself at home
* Be yourself
* Be real
* There’s no rush
* Let God love you
* Let God know you
* Let God heal you
* Let God speak to you
* Receive from God
* Commune with God
* Feed on God

Before we start looking at the accounts of the Last Supper and sharing together in the meal ourselves let us remember and thank God for all the blessings we have in Jesus

Song - Matt Redman 10,000 Reasons

**Reading John 13:1-17 Jesus washes his disciples’ feet**

**John 13:1-17 NLT**

**[1] Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. [2] It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. [3] Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. [4] So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, [5] and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. [6] When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" [7] Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." [8] "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." [9] Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" [10] Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." [11] For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." [12] After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? [13] You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. [14] And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. [15] I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. [16] I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. [17] Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.**

[**John 13:1-17 NLT, tecartabible.com**](https://tbibl.es/3Kez)

**Reflect on:**

“..you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done.”

‘Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them’ v17

v.8 “Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.”

1 Corinthians 11v.28 says in relation to the Communion Meal - ‘A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup’

**Reading Luke 18:9-14 Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector**

**Luke 18:9-14 NLT**

**[9] Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: [10] "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. [11] The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people-cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! [12] I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' [13] "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' [14] I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."**

**Luke 18:9-14 NLT, tecartabible.com**

**Reflect – let us examine ourselves NOT each other**

v.13 ‘God have mercy on me, a sinner.’ Not God I thank you that I am not like the Pharisee!!

As we reflect and confess listen to the words of our next song

Song – Graham Kendrick Servant King

In worship of the servant King let us each personally with God confess our sins, ask for forgiveness and joyfully receive forgiveness, not through anything we have done but through grace brought about by the gift of God through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

Because we know and believe that ‘if we confess our sins to Him (God/Jesus), He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong’ 1 John 1:9 NLT

**Reading Luke 22:8-20 – Last Supper**

 **[8] Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, "Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together." [9] "Where do you want us to prepare it?" they asked him. [10] He replied, "As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, [11] say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' [12] He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal." [13] They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there. [14] When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. [15] Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. [16] For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." [17] Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. [18] For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." [19] He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [20] After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people-an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.**

**Luke 22:8-20 NLT, tecartabible.com**

Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, his last supper before his death but not actually his last meal before he ascended into heaven – having risen from the dead he ate broiled fish and cooked and ate breakfast with his disciples one morning after they had finished fishing.

From our background study we know the Passover Meal was established by God at the time of Moses and still is celebrated by the Israelites/Jews as a memory of God’s love and power in rescuing the Israelites out of Egypt where they were slaves. In the last of the 10 plagues (Pharaoh had numerous opportunities to let God’s people go but refused to do so) the first born died unless the blood of a perfect lamb was put all around the door, sides, top and dripped into a trench at the base – the angel of death seeing the blood **passed over** their dwelling, they were saved by the blood of the lamb and escaped from Egypt. The Passover meal continues to be celebrated by Jews today once a year, and as you will have discovered from your studies, there is so much of the Haggadah – Passover Seder (traditional Jewish liturgy) that speaks of Jesus’ death and resurrection – have a look for yourself. It also explains why this passage mentions the cup twice, in fact in the Passover there are four cups – again have a look for yourself in the circulated material. The key thing is that Jesus took the Old Testament covenant meal, and like he had previously taken the old covenant ten commandments to a new level of understanding in the sermon on the mount, His Last Supper instruction, took the Passover meal to a new level, a new meal of bread and wine - a new covenant he was about to establish through, his body (represented by the bread), his blood (represented by the wine) – the Lamb of God, The Bread of life – his blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins – and life as a result of his death. There is so much to think about and marvel at.

As you reflect on this I will play another song and then we will all partake of the bread and wine, and celebrate this meal with Jesus, in our homes, like the early church, in Communion together with our own bread and wine. As you listen to the song look at the bread, look at the wine and let Jesus speak to you through them.

Song Amazing Grace – Chris Tomlin version John Newton words

**Reading** **1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NLT – Last Supper**

**[23] For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread [24] and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people-an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." [26] For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NLT, tecartabible.com.**

Let us together celebrate the Last Supper as Jesus told us to in order to have a vivid memory of Him.

Take your bread and break it – reflect on it and what it represents

“This is my body, broken for you, keep doing this so that you and all who come after will have a vivid reminder of me” (Voice)

Give your own thanks – eat and share it with whoever else is with you

Take the wine – reflect on it and what it represents

“This cup is the new covenant, executed in my blood, keep doing this, and whenever you drink it, you and all who come after will have a vivid reminder of me.”

Give your own thanks – drink and share it with whoever else is with you

**Prayer.**

“Every time you taste this bread and every time you place the cup to your mouths and drink, you are declaring the Lord’s death, which is the ultimate expression of his faithfulness and love, until he comes again.”

Let us use the words of the next song to reflect, pray and give our own thanks

Song – At the Cross – (Love ran red) C Tomlin

**Prayers for C19 situation (as per prayer diary)**

Song – Blessed Assurance

**Luke 24:13-34** – Road to Emmaus – Resurrected Jesus breaks bread with Cleopas and another follower. V.30, 31 ‘When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and ……’

What happened next? What did they do? Go and remind yourselves later – BUT let me ask us all a question – we have all just had bread with Jesus – What are we going to do?

**Blessing**

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore!

Amen