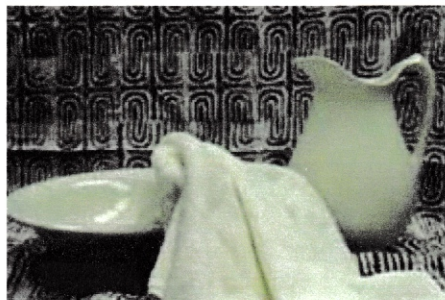


Multisensory Worship Service for Holy Thursday

by Daniel Benedict (Jan. 2012)

This service is adapted from

<http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=nhLRJ2PMKsG&b=5689567&ct=3834835>



Introduction: The services of Holy Week are inherently dramatic and lend themselves to multisensory experiences. In fact, you would almost have to work at making them anything but multisensory.

What follows are suggestions that may stimulate your congregation's planning. *(A note of caution: Don't use everything that is here just because it is here. Use or adapt it as it meets the needs and resources your congregation finds useful in worshiping God for this holy night.)*

Theme or Focus: Strange and Familiar Food Stories

A cluster of narratives all connected to eating, caring, and loving gestures.

Scriptures:

- **Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14:** God tells Moses how to prepare for the original Passover meal
- **1 Corinthians 11:23-26:** Paul tells of the institution of the Lord's Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me."
- **John 13:1-17, 31b-35:** Knowing that his hour had come, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and gave them a new commandment: "Love one another . . . as I have loved you."

Set up:

Arrange space for three scenes. Darken the room with window panels. Light each vignette separately.

1. Door posts and storyteller (stage right).
2. Paul at a table writing of the tradition of the Supper and a narrator reading what Paul is writing (stage left).
3. Enactment of John's telling of the footwashing (center stage).

Drama:

1. **Scene 1:**
 - a. Actors: Narrator/storyteller (**Tom VanDyke**) and one nonspeaking part (**Agnes Jurgens**).
 - b. Narrator reads **Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14** in which God tells Moses how to prepare for the original Passover meal.
 - c. Show a clip from the *Prince of Egypt* that portrays the application of the blood to the lintels/doorposts of the house to give a visual sense of the action.
 - d. End the scene by marking the doorposts with fingers dipped in washable red tempera paint.
 - e. The musicians begin to play #2002 "I Will Call Upon the Lord" and all join in.
2. **Scene 2:**

- a. Narrator (**Tom VanDyke**) and Paul (**Steve Hubbell**). Steve will need to have someone push his wheelchair to the table for this scene.
 - b. Paul is seated at the table, writing.
 - c. Props include a table, candle, pen, and parchment.
 - d. Narrator reads and introduction and 1 **Corinthians 11:23-26** in which Paul tells of the institution of the Lord's Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me."
3. **Scene 3:** See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03uqwCNfCa0> to view a "professional" portrayal of this scene.
- a. Actors: Narrator (**Tom VanDyke**), Jesus (**Ken Lockett**), Peter (**Fred Miller**), and several others to be the non-speaking disciples (**Chris Beaudoin, Greg Beaudoin, Bud Wilson, Ron Zuker, Kevin Nelund, Jim Post**)
 - b. Dramatic enactment of **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**. Knowing that his hour had come, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and gave them a new commandment: "Love one another...as I have loved you." The script would be the John text, slightly adapted for this dramatic enactment.
 - c. Props and suggested arrangement: A low table with the disciples reclining around it, some glasses of drink, some small bowls, and candles. The disciples are seated with their backs and feet toward the congregation. Also have a towel, pitcher and basin; necessary undergarment and outer robe for Jesus.

Action plan:

1. **Recruit actors.** **Status:** Done.
2. **Props:** ~~Paul's table, candle holders, pen, parchment, "glasses", plates, candles, towels, pitcher and basin, washable red tempera paint, floor covering (to protect the carpeting).~~ **Status:** Still need the items that are not crossed off.
3. **Costumes:** Pair up costumes and actors. **Status:** Deb Overla, Betty Kinney, and Birdie Lorenz helper will work between services on March 4 and 11.
4. **Set:** Use items from the Children's Drama Room to make the door. Find a table and chair for Paul. **Status:** We can use the SS props if we take a picture of them first.
5. **Music:** Mary is not available. **Status:** Karen is checking with others.
6. **Media:** Edit the "Prince of Egypt" video clip. **Status:** Done.
7. **Control booth helpers.** **Status:** Helpers still needed.
8. **Script:** Rewrite John 13:1-17, 31b-35 as a script. **Status:** Finished.
9. **Communion:** Let communion stewards, Theresa Stone and Lita Sampson, know that we will have communion during the service. **Status:** Done.
10. **Rehearsal schedule:** Monday, March 11 at 7:00 pm and April 2 at 7:00 pm (during our regular design meeting). Use the time between services also.

Order of Service

Entrance

Gathering. *The people enter and take their seats. The room is semi dark. The Communion Table is illuminated, but the candles are not lit. The oil lamp on the table (stage left) is lit.*

Greeting:

The leader greets people in a way consistent with the practice of the congregation, such as:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*And the people responding: **And also with you.***

Then the leader continues with these or similar words:

Tonight we continue our journey to the cross,

remembering where our table manners came from.

Tonight we tell the stories that make us God's people.

Tonight we are a people about to be freed from slavery.

Tonight we are a people who come with dirty feet

and become clean by water and the word.

*amazon ok
In Remembrance of Me*

Song: *The Faith We Sing*, 2254, "In Remembrance of Me" (_____ and congregation) *Robert Kockis*

Confession and Pardon

Let us declare our need of forgiveness and cleansing.

Jesus, our feet are dirty from the journey.

We have not loved one another as you have loved us.

Callousness and violence stain our hearts and lives. *spelling,*

How will we become clean again?

We see the table there, but who will make us clean and ready for the meal?

Where will we find water for these soiled soles?

Restore us to the joy of God's salvation.

Amen.

*#1 3:25.99
#27 1:53.99 Unico Auraldi*

Song: *A solo voice (Mark) begins to sing #30 "O Lamb of God" or #2113 "Lamb of God." All may join in singing or simply listen to Mark and _____.*

The lamb of God takes away the sins of the world.

Believe the good news.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

*#1 Jwila Paris 4:08.99
#26 Performance track 3:36.99*

Proclamation and Response

Prayer for Illumination

Drama Scene I

- Narrator reads **Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14.**
- Show a clip from the *Prince of Egypt* that portrays the application of the blood to the lintels/doorposts of the house to give a visual sense of the action.
- End the scene by marking the doorposts with fingers dipped in red paint (Agnes Jurgens)

Song: #2002 "I Will Call Upon the Lord" (_____ and congregation)

Steve Hubbell moves to the desk during the song.

Drama Scene II

- a. Paul is seated at the table, writing (Steve Hubbell)
- b. Narrator reads 1 **Corinthians 11:23-26**.

Song: #2254 "In Remembrance of Me, stanza one (_____ and congregation)

Steve Hubbell leaves the stage during the song.

Jesus and the disciples move to the stage.

Drama Scene III

- a. Dramatic enactment of **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**. Jesus (Ken Lockett), Simon Peter (Fred Miller), Disciples (Chris Beaudoin, Greg Beaudoin, Bud Wilson, Ron Zuker, Kevin Nelun, Jim Post).
- b. A low table with the disciples reclining around it, some glasses of drink, some small bowls, and candles or oil lamps. The disciples are seated with their backs and feet toward the congregation. Also have a towel, pitcher and basin; necessary undergarment and outer robe for Jesus.

Sermon: *Mark preaches out of the experience of the Scriptures to move the action toward the response of foot washing to follow. Share some table story that connects to how life is changed when food is prepared and shared with story and memory. The invitation is to live in love for one another by enacting the word in acts of mercy — in following Jesus' example by washing one another's feet.*

Concerns and Prayers: *Mark engages the people in prayers for the world, for all who suffer and are in trouble, and for the church.*

The Passing of the Peace

Thanksgiving and Communion

Taking the Bread and Cup

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

During this time, the congregation is led in singing songs familiar to the people, such as "Amazing Grace, " "Let Us Break Bread Together, " and so on.

Foot washing: *Mark Erbes. Be sure that people are clear that they are free to simply observe the action if they choose or they may kneel in prayer or return to their seats. Encourage and support children in participating if they would like to do so. Foot washing can be a very powerful sensory experience for all who receive and give the gift of foot washing. Have teams of helpers to empty basins; bring fresh, warm, soapy water; and provide plenty of towels. **Have a few "plants" who are willing to participate.***

The pastor and people give thanks after Communion, using "Prayer after Communion" in the hymnal or an extemporaneous prayer.

Sending Forth

Prayer/Dismissal with Blessing

*Go in peace. May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient to God and gave himself to death on the cross, keep you this night and forever. **Amen.***

Going Forth: *All leave in silence.*

Amazing Grace
 ↓
 123 El Shaddai
 Amazon
 601 Gly Wood
 Instruments
 (Jant)

church pianist 2:11 \$99 OK

Make Me a Servant OK

H11 Maranatha Muses \$99 acoustic

#13 instrumental

In Remembrance of Me by Chris Keaggy

no instrument 3:56