

SCRIPTURE READING FOR MARCH 20, 2022 @ CAPC OAKLAND

John 13:1-17
NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

¹ 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.

² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "LORD, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "LORD, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and LORD—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your LORD and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, **SERVANTS** are not greater than their MASTER, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

LANGUAGE NOTES & TEXTUAL CONNECTIONS

The gospel of John one of the four stories of the good news of Jesus (Gospel means good news) which tells his life, actions, words and mission. It's believed that John's account is the last one written as his retelling of the story reflects considerable theological reflection and uses metaphors and poetic language. One example is the play with light and darkness throughout the story. John's account also contains only seven miracles – or *signs* as they're called. A symbolic number in Jewish tradition that represents the divine and also recall the days of creation in the foundational story of Genesis. In this way the John tells the life of Jesus as the recreation of the world. Today's reading is the telling of the seventh sign in the book of John

HIS HOUR:: this word and expression is used throughout John's gospel to refer to the hour of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and death – it arrives" in the text in John 17:1 "After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you..."

wash the disciples' feet:: The practice of foot washing was originally an act of hospitality in Palestinian homes, performed for guests (who wore sandals and walked on dusty roads) by a servant or the wife of the host. Jesus – as the ultimate guest – would be the last one expected to do this task.

SERVANTS :: δούλος [doulos] :: properly, someone who belongs to another; a bond-slave, without any ownership rights of their own. Ironically, δούλος ("bond-slave") is used with the highest dignity in the NT – namely, of believers who willingly live under Christ's authority as His devoted followers.

MASTER :: κύριος [kurios] :: properly, a person exercising absolute ownership rights; lord (Lord) or (master) or (Sir). It also is used to address Jesus as the Lord - as opposed to the Emperor (or someone else) as Master, Lord or Kurios.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in these texts?
- How does Jesus see human nature and relationships? How is that similar or different to how human nature is seen in our world?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, as a church – to act, speak, be or change through this word of scripture?

Doulos – servant – or slave :: This same word is at the heart of one of the majestic scriptures that talks about Jesus – who and how he was in the world in Philippians 2:1-11. Paul writes this poem to encourage the congregation in Philippi to see each other differently than how the world invites them to see each other.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a *Doulos*,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.