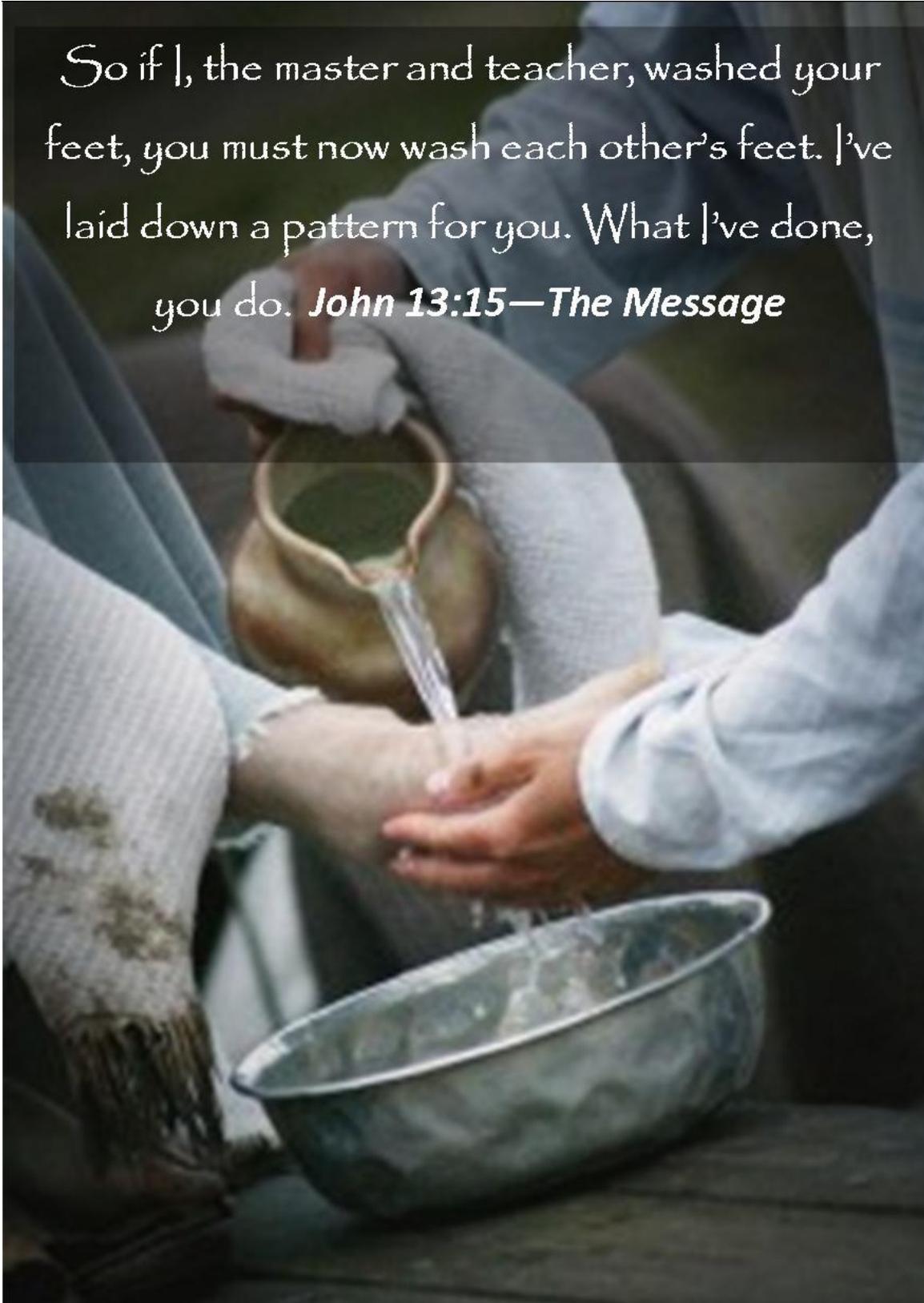


April 13, 2017

**St. Mark's Anglican Church
"The Friendly Church"**

So if I, the master and teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. *John 13:15—The Message*



St. Mark's Church – St. John's, Newfoundland
April 13, 2017

*Today's bulletin is given to the glory of God
in memory of loved ones from Eric & Jean White*

Celebrant: The Rev. Mark Nichols
Preacher: The Rev. Irving Letto

Processional Hymn	180
The Address to the Congregation	page 304
The Collect of the Day	page 304
Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14	
Psalm 116:1, 10-17	page 864
Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	
Hymn	77
Gospel Reading: John 13:1-17, 31B-35	
The Sermon	
Invitation	page 305
The Foot Washing (Hymn # 634 sung during the Foot Washing)	
Prayers of the People	
<i>Leader: God of love,</i>	
<i>People: Grant our prayer.</i>	
The Confession and Absolution	page 191
The Peace	
Hymn	500
Prayer over the Gifts	page 306
Eucharistic Prayer # 3	page 198
The Lord's Prayer	page 211
The Breaking of the Bread # 7	page 213
The Communion	
Hymn	74
Prayer after Communion	page 307
Hymn	190
The Stripping of the Altar	
Matthew 26:30-46	
Psalm 22	
The choir, clergy and congregation leave in silence	

MAUNDY THURSDAY

When we enter the church this evening, we are struck by its festive appearance. In the midst of a week of abandonment and denial surrounding Jesus' last week on earth, we see the area around the altar is at its most beautiful with flowers and white hangings. This is the evening when we celebrate and honour the Institution of the Holy Eucharist. We give thanks for the gift of Christ's very real presence among us through this communion. This meal has sustained, and continues to sustain, the church since the Upper Room event in all the church's trials and difficulties.

In the midst of this joyful celebration this evening, we are taken back to the reality of Jesus' last days with his friends. We have the foot washing ceremony in which clergy and congregation reenact that stunning moment when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. With this act, Jesus embodies his servant ministry with the new commandment of love. "A new commandment give I unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you." Jesus sets us the example by washing the feet of his disciples.

Later, after the Eucharist, we participate in a systematic stripping of the altar and removal of all liturgical and decorative items from the chancel by the altar guild and clergy. The "stripping of the altar" symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers in preparation for his crucifixion. We reflect upon Jesus' humiliation and the consequences of sin as we prepare for the celebration of new life and hope that is to come on Easter Day.

At the conclusion of the stripping of the altar, a single light is placed on the altar to begin our Gethsemane Watch. We leave the church in silence as a Prayer Vigil continues. The words of Jesus, "Can you not keep watch with me for just one hour?" ring in our ears. We reflect on his night of agony in the garden on the night that began with his festive meal with his disciples in the Upper Room. What a turn of events!

The Maundy Thursday service does not end with a blessing or dismissal, nor do any of the services until Easter Day. From this point on, our worship is one continuous service of watching and praying through to Easter morning. The Gethsemane Watch begins.

EASTER WEEKEND WORSHIP

Good Friday (April 14)

9:30 a.m. Good Friday Children's Liturgy

12 noon Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Day

Sunday, April 16, at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.