

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

World Wide Meal
Experience with
Bel Air Church

April 9, 2020



THE GOD WHO SEES

Perceiving the
Last Supper
Amidst the Pandemic

WELCOME

Welcome to a World Wide Meal shared by thousands of households. Although church doors have been closed, we have blown the proverbial (browser) “windows” open and are collectively engaging in a Holy Week meal unlike anything we’ve ever experienced.

Right now, you are in community with Christians from all around the world commemorating the Last Supper and Jesus’ final hours on what is known as Maundy Thursday. The word “maundy” comes from “mandatum” or commandment, referencing Jesus’ final instructions to the disciples while having a meal together.

So, wherever you are in the world, whatever time zone you live in, regardless of when or what you choose to have for dinner, Jesus sees you and wants to dine with you.

The following “Menu” is a resource to help guide you through Scriptures to read, prayers to share, and questions to discuss.

We encourage you to post pictures or record an aspect of the meal, Skype or Zoom with friends and #worldwidemeal on Instagram.

Please, eat, post, chat, message, enjoy, and celebrate this time together!



APPETIZER

Seen in a time of Separation

In Genesis 16, we learn of a woman named Hagar who fled her home out of fear of harm. For her, the desert offered greater hope than her current circumstances. She did not feel “safer at home.” It was in the desert, in the wilderness, in the wild unknown where she met God and where God met her. It was here where God spoke hope into her life, gave her “hope” a name, and in return, she named God...“The God who sees.”

It’s from this story where our theme for this evening originates. All of us are in the wilderness, a wild unknown where we experience feelings of isolation and abandonment, anxiety, fear...yet even here we can encounter Hope. Our prayer for you tonight is that you would be reminded that you are not alone. The God of Hope is with you. You join thousands of sisters and brothers from around the world in this Maundy Thursday meal. We gather collectively, yet, individually, God sees each and every one of us. May you feel seen and loved through tonight’s experience.



ASK

#theGodwhosees | #worldwidemeal

What has your experience with being “Seen in a time of Separation” been like?

PRAY

Unshakeable God, you are our ever-present help in times of need. Amidst all the isolation, grief and fear caused by this crisis, renew in us your peace, restore in us your perspective, and reveal to us your presence as we spend this time with you now.



1st Course

Connection in a time of Confinement

During this course, we will be exploring Christ's invitation to connection in a time of isolation. Let's turn to the remarkable story of Jesus healing a paralytic, imagining all the ways we may be blocked and barricaded from intimate connection during this time:

Mark 2:1–12

After a few days, Jesus returned to Capernaum, and word got around that he was back home. A crowd gathered, jamming the entrance so no one could get in or out. He was teaching the Word. They brought a paraplegic to him, carried by four men. When they weren't able to get in because of the crowd, they removed part of the roof and lowered the paraplegic on his stretcher. Impressed by their bold belief, Jesus said to the paraplegic, "Son, I forgive your sins."

Some religion scholars sitting there started whispering among themselves, "He can't talk that way! That's blasphemy! God and only God can forgive sins."

Jesus knew right away what they were thinking, and said, "Why are you so skeptical? Which is simpler: to say to the paraplegic, 'I forgive your sins,' or say, 'Get up, take your stretcher, and start walking'? Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both . . ." (he looked now at the paraplegic), "Get up. Pick up your stretcher and go home." And the man did it—got up, grabbed his stretcher, and walked out, with everyone there watching him. They rubbed their eyes, incredulous—and then praised God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this!"

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ASK

#Quarantine | #Saferathome

In a time where we are blocked from entering one another's homes, where our fears and anxieties feel paralyzing, if Jesus were to look you in the eyes tonight, what words would you want Him to say?

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2nd Course

Delight in a time of Desperation

Next, we will be reflecting on the invitation of Jesus into a deeper intimacy and an opportunity to delight in a time of personal distraction, societal desperation, and cultural disruption.

Luke 19:1–6

Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him.

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PRAY

#desperateforJesus | #hospitality

Many wonderful stories are coming in of people turning to faith in Jesus in response to the crisis. Let's take some time to name and pray for friends who may not yet delight in the presence of Christ. Pray for loved-ones whose usual securities are being shaken and whose normal coping mechanisms may be blocking their view of Jesus' presence, asking that they might welcome Christ's command, "today is my day to be a guest in your home."

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3rd Course

Communion in a time of Containment

In a time when the world is practicing social distancing with no physical touch, Jesus offers us himself...in the flesh...to run to...and embrace like a child. No boundaries, no sanitizers, no restrictions. All who place their faith in Jesus are welcome in His home and have a seat at His table.

Mark 10:13–16

The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: “Don’t push these children away. Don’t ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom.

Mark this: Unless you accept God’s kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you’ll never get in.” Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them.



ASK

#socialdistancing | #LastSupper

What have you learned from children, whether from their presence or from their absence, over the course of this pandemic?

PRAY

Pray for the kids and students in your life, your children, grandchildren, sisters & brothers, nieces & nephews, cousins, and neighbors. Pray for those who are grieving the loss of their senior year, the security of their social community and who may need a special blessing in the midst of this crisis.

3rd Course

Continued

COMMUNION

Participate by reading the following:

When it was time, Jesus sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, “You’ve no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering...

(Take bread from your table, thank God for it, break it, and share it, saying,) “This is Christ’s body, given for you. We eat it in His memory.”

(Do the same with your cup, saying,) “This cup is the new covenant written in Christ’s blood, blood poured out for us for the forgiveness of sins. We drink it in His memory.”

This is Christ’s body – Jesus is here | This is Christ’s blood – Jesus is in our home

We are not alone. Christ is with us and relates with us through the Holy Spirit even now. Amen.



4th Course

Courage in a time of Crisis

Matthew 26:36–46

Then (after dinner) Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, “Stay here while I go over there and pray.” Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, “This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and stay awake with me.”

Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, “My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?”

When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, “Can’t you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don’t wander into temptation without even knowing you’re in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there’s another part that’s as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire.”

He then left them a second time. Again he prayed, “My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the sediments, I’m ready. Do it your way.”

When he came back, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn’t keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray, going over the same ground one last time.

When he came back the next time, he said, “Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let’s get going! My betrayer is here.”

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4th Course

Continued

ASK

#Courage | #MaundyThursday

Jesus says, “This sorrow is crushing my life out.”

How would you complete this sentence?
“This _____ is crushing my life out.”

Jesus asks His Father, “If there is any way, get me out of this.” Yet he has the courage and strength to say, “But please, not what I want. You, what do you want.”

What are ways you may have fallen asleep to wants and concerns of God in the midst of this crisis?

PRAY

“Father, not what I want. You God of hope, what do you want.” Amen.

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HOLY WEEK

Would you consider **identifying five people in your life** that you could invite to our remaining Holy Week online experiences? Considering the diversity of these experiences, you might consider inviting different people to each of these events on belairpres.org/holyweek.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

April 10, Pastor Drew will lead us through a meditative and immersive online experience as we reflect upon the seven profound statements that Jesus said from the cross. Visit belair.org/watch at 5 pm, 7 pm, or 9 pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Experience a self-guided, online journey through the Stations of the Cross as you reflect upon the lengths that Jesus went to in order to give His life so that we might have abundant life. Rev. Dr. Care Crawford has curated this moving experience and can be experienced at belair.org/stationsofthecross at any point during the week.

EASTER

April 12, This will be an Easter unlike you've ever experienced – a virtual choir, our worship band, a timely Easter message, and much more. Visit belair.org/watch at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm, or 8 pm



belairpres.org/holyweek

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