

Maundy Thursday evening service,

Cashmere Presbyterian Church, combined with St Augustines Anglican Church

Thursday 24 March 2016, 7.30pm

Theme: 'Being Surrendered'

Church set out:

candles lit & front & foyer lights only ... dark in main church

no printed order of service

table long-ways, set with tablecloth, flat bread, chalices with grape juice, grapes, herbs

candles on windowsills, on table, minorra at the front of the church.

Gluten free plate

cross hung on pulpit

pipe cleaners on pews

Music: Tim

Before the service, music on Ipod:

Such love

My song is love unknown

Reflection for Maundy Thursday: '**Being Surrendered**'

Silvia Purdie, Cashmere Presbyterian Church

Luke 22: 39-42

Not my will but yours

I have been working through a series this Lent. The central question is 'Who are we?' ... who am I? Who are we as church? ... and we've talked about being yourself, being creative, being a blessing ...

It seemed like a good way to start from my point of view, being new here, getting to know people and letting people get to know me. But also I hope it goes deeper than that. It seems to me to be a basic part of the Christian life, of growing up, to circle around and come back again to this basic question – 'who am I?' ... and we find new answers each year, each season of our lives. I've had some wonderful responses from folks here to this conversation and I hope it will be ongoing. We talked on Sunday about 'being yourself' and the pressure that people feel to fit in. I suspect many of us know the masks that we put on in

different situations ... but who are we really? Do I want anyone to see me really? What am I really made of?

Our world runs on image, and we project images of ourselves designed to win approval ... pictures, selfies, masks, roles, projections, cardboard cut out selves pasted inside our windows for the world to see

One of our sons used to love making houses out of cards. He'd get down on the floor with packs of cards and carefully stack them, angle them, eagerly build up layer on teetering layer ... until the slightest puff of air sends the whole thing crashing down on the carpet and all you have is a mess of playing cards.

Is anything in our lives really solid? Is anything really ours?

Maundy Thursday is that moment in our church year when huddle in the dark with the disciples as everything crashes down around them. Everything they hoped for, everything they felt to be solid, crumbled and crushed.

Shortly we are going to return to the events earlier in the evening, the Last Supper of Jesus with his friends, and we are going to share an informal Communion together around this table. But this evening I want to begin here, at the point of surrender.

Jesus, alone in the garden, his friends worn out with fear, overcome with the shock of suddenly realizing that all they had been planning was turning into a complete disaster ... there in that moment Jesus prays with great cries and inner struggle, prays through to this great great statement of surrender, this greatest of all 'buts' ... "but not my will but yours".

When had Jesus ever had a will which wanted anything other than his Father's will? All his life he had been utterly at one with his Father's purposes and desires and intentions ... until this moment when something human within Jesus cried out for an easier way, cried out to push away the cup which his Father had placed into his hands to drink ... "Not this" Jesus cries, "Please not this" ...

It's just part of being human, I guess ... of course yes we know that God's way is true and right and best, but when it comes to the crunch

we cling to our own convictions about what we want and how we do things.

I invite you this evening to hear again the call to 'let go'. 'Let go and let God'. Let God be in charge. Let Jesus be Lord of your life.

Jesus in the garden leads us to the place of surrender. "not my will but yours" he says.

and he knows what you are struggling with, at this point in your life ... he knows the cup that you would rather not drink. He knows the pain that you would rather not feel. He knows the tasks that you would rather not do, the conversations you would rather not have.

This place of surrender is not for the faint hearted. This night of all nights is a night of courage. It is also a place of community, for there are friends beside you. It is a place of safety, where you can show your cards to the one who made you and who loves you beyond words can express.

Let go control of your life. Let your house of cards fall to the ground. Let Jesus Christ your saviour gently gather them up again and give them back to you.

I have a poem for you. I wrote it this time last year

Poem:

My eyes sting with weeping
body shaken with emotion
from the heavy hand of God on me
Lord save me from me!
Tip me out completely into you
pattern me after your ways of doing things
constant outpouring
and refilling
tears and dancing
lightness of feet
and tender of touch
you walk the weeping way
utterly free from worry
devoid of anxiety
holding these paradoxes
of trust and struggle
perfectly balanced
light as air
strong as stone
and me and my tears
are scooped up
shaken kindly
wrapped around
turned around
patted on the back
and sent home again
Was I expecting something else?

Order of Service:

Welcome

Opening Hymn: Take my life (5 verses)

Call to worship: Psalm 60

O God, you have rejected us,

broken our defences;

you have been angry;

now restore us!

You have caused the land to quake;

you have torn it open;

repair the cracks in it,

for it is tottering.

You have made your people suffer hard things;

you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.

O God, lift up a banner for those who honour you,

and we will rally to you.

Give victory with your right hand, and answer us, ^[b]

rescue those whom you love.

Have you rejected us, O God?

Do you go out to guard us?

O God, help us,

for human help is worthless.

With God we shall find courage;

God alone will defeat our attackers.

Reading: Luke 22:39-42

Silvia

Reflection: 'Being Surrendered'

Song: Once Again

Confession and quiet prayer

Hand out pipe cleaners. Invite them to express with the pipe cleaners something of the shape of your life.

Music playing on ipod: Stay with me

Stay with me, remain here with me;

watch and pray, watch and pray.

Song: I surrender all

Reading 2: Luke 22:7-13

someone from St Augs

Prayer

Sing: The Lord's Prayer

Reading 3: Luke 22:14-23

Thanksgiving Prayer

Father I thank you
for all that you've done.
You gave your Son freely for all, even, for me.
And I praise you for calling us,
drawing us near.
Out of blindness
you caused us to see

Spirit of life
you are God's holy fire
you've kindled our heart with your blaze.
And I know you're refining us,
changing our lives,
and by faith you're revealing your ways.

Jesus we need you
as Lord of our lives.
We give all we have unto you.
Lord, we want to come under
your heavenly hand,
and to praise you in all that we do.

Song: Father I thank you

Come forward to stand in a circle around the table.
Bring the pipe cleaners forward to place under the cross.

Communion Litany

Here we are, Lord
Here we are as friends and strangers, here to be your body.
We are here because we know we are not alone;
in our loneliness we seek your companionship.
Grace is here, more than enough to gather up
the tangled mess of our lives,
the broken pieces held together in the hands of Jesus breaking bread
pouring wine
pouring out his very life blood in passion for us
Spirit is here, infusing these tangible things
mingling breath with our breath -
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus!
Take and eat, friends of God
and your empty hands will be filled with mercy
your hungry hearts will flow with kindness
Power is here, surrendered and made whole.

*Communion: rip off piece of bread and 'dunk' in the cup
may need 2 groups at the front
Music: Tim to play*

Closing prayer

Closing song: Were you there when they crucified (4 verses)

During this song we extinguish the candles at the front of the church

I surrender all

1. All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.
 - *Refrain:*
I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.
2. All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.
3. All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.
4. All to Jesus I surrender,
Now I feel the sacred flame;
Oh, the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory, to His Name!

Once Again

Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice
You became nothing
Poured out to death
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life
I'm in that place once again
I'm in that place once again

Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice
You became nothing
Poured out to death
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life
I'm in that place once again
I'm in that place once again

Once again I look upon
the cross where you died
I'm humbled by your mercy
and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank you,
Once again I pour out my life

Now you are exalted to the highest place
King of the Heavens, where one day I'll bow
But for now, I'll marvel at your saving grace
I'm full of praise once again
I'm full of praise once again

Once again I look upon
the cross where you died
I'm humbled by your mercy
and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank you,
Once again I pour out my life

Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross, my friend

Once again I look upon
the cross where you died
I'm humbled by your mercy
and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank you,
Once again I pour out my life

Father I thank You
Written by Steve Stewart

Father I thank you
for all that you've done.
You gave your Son freely for me.
And I praise you for calling me,
drawing me near.
Out of blindness
you caused me to see

Spirit of life
you are God's holy fire
you've kindled my heart with your blaze.
And I know you're refining me,
changing my life,
and by faith you're revealing your ways.

Jesus I need you
as Lord of my life.
I give all I have unto you.
Lord, I want to come under
your heavenly hand,
and to praise you in all that I do.

Were you there

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh- sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?
Oh- sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh- sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Well, were you there when the stone was rolled away?
Were you there when the stone was rolled away?
Oh- sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the stone was rolled away?

