

Reflection Holy Thursday Year C 2022

The night before his arrest, aware that his time is short with so much going through his mind, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. For all that happens at this Last Supper, Jesus' main concern is for his disciples, wanting them to understand what he was doing and why. This has been a major concern throughout his life. Thinking about others first was inherited from his family. Mary certainly did not say 'Yes' to God for her own benefit, given all the suffering she had to endure because of it. Joseph, too, realised that his role was not just to support Mary but something much greater. Putting others first was a key gift Mary and Joseph gave to Jesus. Tonight, it shows!

Celebrating the Passover, the disciples are reminded of all that God has done for them. It was a community celebration of being set free from all that enslaves, a celebration of the deep love of God for them and also an invitation to live the freedom and life won for them.

God in an Apron (Macrina Wiederkehr)

Supper was special that night. There was both a heaviness and a holiness hanging in the air. We couldn't explain the mood. It was sacred, yet sorrowful. Gathered around that table eating that solemn, holy meal seemed to us the most important meal we had ever sat down to eat.

We were dwelling in the heart of mystery. Though dark the night, hope felt right as if something evil was about to be conquered. And then suddenly the One we loved startled us all. He got up from the table and put on an apron. Can you imagine how we felt?

God in an apron! Tenderness encircled us as He bowed before us. He knelt and said, *"I choose to wash your feet because I love you."*

God in an apron, kneeling. I couldn't believe my eyes. I was embarrassed until his eye met mine. I sensed my value then. He touched my feet. He held them in his strong, brown hands. He washed them. I can still feel the water. I can still feel the touch of his hands. I can still see the look in his eyes.

Then he handed me the towel and said, *"As I have done so you must do."* Learn to bow – Learn to kneel. Let your tenderness encircle everyone you meet. Wash their feet not because you have to but because you want to.

It seems I've stood two thousand years holding the towel in my hands, *"As I have done so you must do,"* keeps echoing in my heart.

"There are so many feet to wash," I keep saying. *"No,"* I hear God's voice resounding through the years, *"There are only my feet – what you do for them you do for me."*