

LENT 2026

MAUNDY THURSDAY

God who calls us to build and to serve,
Through the prophet you asked hard questions:
“Is it time for you to live in comfort while this house lies in ruins?”
You saw your people distracted, busy with their own concerns,
neglecting the work that mattered most. And still— you did not abandon them.
You called them back. That call echoes still.
In an upper room, Jesus rose from the table, took a towel, and knelt to wash feet.
Dusty, tired, ordinary feet.
No temple rebuilt, no grand gesture—
just water, just touch, just love made visible.
And then the command: Love one another. As I have loved you.
This is the dirty work of hope.
It is not just what we believe— it is what we build, and how we serve.
It is turning back when we have lost our way.
It is choosing again what matters most.
It is kneeling in humility in a world that prizes power.
It is tending to one another in small, embodied acts of care.
God, we confess how easily we neglect your work—
how quickly we turn inward, how often we delay love.
Stir us, as you stirred your people long ago.
Awaken us to what lies in ruins—in our communities,
in our relationships, in our own hearts. And give us courage to rebuild.
Not with grand plans alone, but with faithful action:
with hands that serve, with hearts that remain open,
with love that does not wait for convenience.
When we resist kneeling, teach us the grace of humility.
When we feel unworthy or unsure, remind us that you call us anyway.
Make us known by our love— not in words alone,
but in how we show up for one another.
And as we gather at your table,
wash us, renew us, send us.
To build what has been broken.
To love as we have been loved.
In the name of Christ, who knelt and who calls us friends, Amen.

Journal Prompt – Building and Serving

Haggai calls the people to rebuild what has been neglected.

In John 13, Jesus shows that love is expressed through humble, embodied service.

Reflect:

- What in your life or community feels “in ruins” or neglected right now?
- Where might God be calling you to help rebuild—not perfectly, but faithfully?
- How do you respond to the image of Jesus washing feet?
- What is one concrete way you can practice love through service this week?