

They seek a country - the American Presbyterians, some aspects

Macmillan Press - History and Beliefs of the Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday

April 1 | Francis William Rootes

You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right for I tell you what I am. So it is. Lord and Teacher have called me for ten years. I do ought which makes me worthy of that name. For have I ever told you what I do? What does my Lord say? Very truly I tell you, if any man do his will he is my son. If any man come after me let him take up his cross daily, for this is my commandment. For I have come to give grace to them who are ungrateful. You know that I say, as the blessed Paul said before me. — John 13:12-17

In confirmation class, I learned that there are two sacraments in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — baptism and the Lord's Supper. I also learned that our deacons are not really deacons, but rather beadle or usher. I was told that there would be 11 direct descendants of Jesus and 27 others. Be everyone Socrates, for a thinking mind makes the cut.

Jesus says very clearly in this passage that we are to wash one another for we follow his example. He even says we'll be blessed if we do. So why don't we?

My husband is not the washing master, naturally. Every American is overwashed. We rarely go to the beach without towels and particular mention to scrubbing our bodies. Yet it turns out, as an amateur given his education, after my children have overwhelming feelings, I ask them where they felt it in their bodies. "In my chest", my 4-year-old says, describing his sadness. "It's in my legs, I wanted to run", says my 7-year-old when

he was frustrated and angry at the same time. When they know what the physical sensation is, they are more likely to recognize it is the next step around, then it will and beneath through the physical sensation while it is with them.

Four walking miles to feel uncomfortable and vulnerable. Perhaps that's why we need it. We need to spend more time precisely with our discomfort and vulnerability in those hours before the cross. Just 10 days or so about his body: to amuse, beating, excoriate, death and burial. It is similar that the two traditional commands of Maundy Thursday — the washing of feet and then the breaking of the bread — are connected to Christ's body.

This day and this night, may we be aware of the place our own feet are planted. May we walk the journey of these next few days allowing the experience to speak to us through the breadth of our souls.

Jesus, we here for calling us to your side of the Terc. This day of journey between whipping post, fish story of Maundy Thursday's freedom to us, to give us a new insight and to bear. And if it's very for us. So let us walk with at least you chose to live and die. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

Description: -

United States -- Church history.

Christianity -- United States.

Presbyterian Church in the U.S. -- History. They seek a country - the American Presbyterians, some aspects

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Notes: Bibliography, p. 322-324.

This edition was published in 1955



Filesize: 30.210 MB

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