

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

Fifth Avenue · New York City

Sermon Outline

Maundy Thursday, 14th April 2022

Lord Bishop Sentamu

5:30 p.m.

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Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Theme: Living a Jesus Christ Shaped Life

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My purpose, in the six 'Farewell Messages I have delivered in the course of my ministry, was always to prepare them for the future: giving warning as well as instruction, wanting them to be their best.

Our Lord's "**farewell message**" to his disciples in John 13-17 ends his great prayer for them and for us who "*were far off but have been brought near by the shedding of his blood.*" His successor would be **One like himself, the Holy Spirit**,

And to his farewell message he added a "**prophetic and symbolic action**" – he washed his twelve disciples' feet - an object lesson they would never forget.

Chapter 13 gives us a spiritual truth to help us in our own Christian journey.

What our Lord knew: That his hour had come for him to depart; *that he had come from God and was going to God*" (John 13:1,3).

What our Lord did: "*The Father had put all things into the Son's hands*" **yet Jesus picked up a towel and basin!** He kneels at the feet of his twelve disciples as a slave and washes their feet and dries them. A **down-to-earth humility**, not born of poverty, but of riches. This is the face of God's hospitality - **down-to-earthiness, humility and service.**

Jesus Christ shows us that If we want to **ascend**, we must **descend**.

He was Lord and Master, yet he served his twelve disciples.

If we desire to know and do our Father's will, we will experience the joy of following Jesus Christ's example of **down-to-earthiness, humility**, and serve others.

We, the Church, must put aside the worldly spirit of competition and criticism. **Humility is the only soil in which the graces of the Holy Spirit take root.** Every defect and failure in the Body of Christ comes from a lack of humility. If we humbly ask Christ to cleanse us thoroughly we will experience being part of our Lord. And then, as models of forgiveness, go and love others into holiness.

May we daily submit to Jesus Christ who cleanses our lives to serve others.

Taking the place of a person at the bottom, the place of a slave.

This is **the way to live a Jesus Christ shaped life.**

Beloved, let us do it. Let us do it now. "*Wash us Lord, for we long go be part of you, serve one another and wash the feet of our neighbourhoods, our nation, your world. Lord cleanse us and fill us afresh with your love, your joy, your Holy Spirit. Amen.*"