

Maundy Thursday Children's Service

Anne-Marie Miller, St. John's Episcopal Church, Bangor ME

Materials needed: basin, towel, warm water, Bible, cards with blessings, picture of The Last Supper, , children's Bibles with bookmarks to story, plates, napkins, cups, pitcher of water; art supplies: markers, banner paper , icons, plants, shells, stones, objects for garden, small candles.

Shopping list: (bread), cheese (mild), olives, fruit (oranges, raisins), almonds, honey, grape juice (We have families volunteer to bring food)

Setup: table for eating; table for plants; table with art supplies for children who arrive early.

1. Gathering activity

Drawing: The last supper/ foot washing

Icons available for inspiration.

As children enter, ask for volunteers to say blessings at the meal; hand out the blessings.

2. Kids wash hands. Gather in circle.

3. Story

The synagogue and the Upper room (Godly play)

4. Foot washing

We tell about Jesus washing the disciples feet, then invite the children to wash one another's feet. This part of the activity is all hands on deck, with parents and youth assisting. We ask everyone who wants to participate line up by age, youngest first. I wash the youngest child's foot, then support each child in washing a foot for the child in line behind them. Oldest child washes my foot and then we move on to the meal).

5. Blessings over the food

Now we are going to share a meal together like Jesus did with his disciples. First we are going to say blessings for each food, then we will pass it around our table to share. We will eat together, and then we will go upstairs to hear about what happened next to Jesus and his disciples.

Everyone stands up at the table. Blessings are printed on cards for three children to read.

Blessing over bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth and on this night you have given us the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing over the olives

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. Make this fruit of the olive not to depart from your sweetness, which is an example of your richness which you have poured from the tree of life to those who hope in you. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing over the other foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

6. Eat.
7. We tell about Jesus and the disciples going to pray together in the garden. Adjourn to chapel with plants/ rocks./ shells. Make garden, listen to taize music if it feels appropriate.
8. Quiet time in the garden. Light the candles and dim the lights.
9. Children and parents leave when they are ready.