

Tuesday 7th April 2020

Bible Reading: [John 13: 1- 20](#)

Reflection

Over the centuries, like the effect of erosion on rock, Jesus's sharp edges have been smoothed over. We don't experience the shock that would have been felt by his contemporaries when they heard his teaching and saw his actions.

The action in this reading is a case in point. Peter verbalises the shock. It was the normal practice of a *slave* to wash the dusty feet of a guest. The disciples believed Jesus was 'Teacher' and 'Lord'. Jesus himself, in verse 19, uses the words 'I am' – that is how God described himself in Exodus 3: 14. For this person to be fulfilling the duty of a slave was unthinkable. Yet Jesus did it. Not only to confound current thinking about what was right and proper, but also to set an example. Serving others is what Jesus did and what he encourages his disciples to do.

The outpouring of generous and costly service is one of the inspiring things that is coming out of our experience of life under the shadow of Covid-19. Our interrelatedness, our dependence on one another, becomes clearer and clearer. Equally the remarkably rapid healing of the negative effect of our former lifestyles on the natural world also gives pause for thought.

Jesus teaches us to be truly and beautifully human.

Prayer:

Lord, let there be
respect for the earth,
peace for its people,
love in our lives,
delight in the good,
forgiveness for past wrongs
and from now on a new start,
in Jesus name.

Amen.

(from a reflection by Deborah Lawson in 'Prayers and Meditations for a New Millennium', the Mothers' Union, Diocese of Winchester)

Hymn: [Brother, Sister, let me serve you](#)

