This night, we are invited to love as Christ loves—to do so literally—in the very same act by which Christ loved his own disciples. To let Christ wash your feet—let Christ pick up your smelliest, most misshapen body part—and to hold it, wash it, give it back to you—it is to take the RISK of letting yourself SEE CHRIST, SPEND TIME WITH CHRIST, HIMSELF, in the person who will wash your feet tonight.

Who do you call when your smelliest, most misshapen parts need to be held? When you are so angry that you have almost harmed your child? When you feel you can’t get out of bed, you are too worn, too tired, too overwhelmed to face anything else? When you have said something so biting to someone else that you can barely name it aloud? When you realize that you are afraid to fully be yourself because someone has told you that self is not enough, and you have believed them? Is there someone?

This night, we are given the gift of being that someone, that community of someone’s, to each other. We are given the invitation to begin to build the sort of intimacy that will enable us to give each other our most misshapen parts…and for us to practice receiving those parts without embarrassment, or hesitancy—to look each other right in the face, and pick up each other’s smelly, misshapen parts, and gently care for them.

I know I have a tendency to look down when I wash feet in this service—to distance myself from the intimate act of massaging another’s foot. I encourage each of us to take a risk tonight—to not only rise from the pew and get our feet washed, but if we are able, and its ok if we aren’t yet—to look each other in the eye as we wash...as we slowly and gently wash. For, if we cannot trust Christ with our feet, how will we trust Christ with those deep places within that need holding, massaging, loving, and liberating?

What are your most misshapen parts? And, can you take the risk of enabling the body of Christ, incarnated here in this community, to pick them up, care for them, and give them back, restored and ready to walk again?