

April 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Enclosed you will find a **Holy Week Worship Packet**. Beginning with Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, you will find worship bulletins, music and instructions for either joining us via Zoom or telephoning in and listening along. Either way, I wanted to make sure you were able to take part in all of planned events during this holy season.

[Include instructions here for Zoom]

On Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In preparation, please following these instructions.

PREPARE COMMUNION BEFORE WORSHIP: Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with your faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup.

Thank you for your advanced preparation.

See you in worship,

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Desiree

Included in this packet:

- Worship Bulletin for Palm Sunday — April 5, 2020 @ 10:30am
- Zoom Plans for Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (9am, Noon & 9pm)
- Worship Bulletin for Maundy Thursday — April 9, 2020 @ 7pm
- Guided Meditation for Good Friday — April 10, 2020
- Worship Bulletin for Easter Sunday — April 12, 2020 @ 10:30am

Holy Week Worship Packet

April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday @ 10:30am

Welcome & Announcement

Minute for Wellness - Elder Christine Clark

Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let the people say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the many houses of the Lord.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

You are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn#196: All Glory, Laud and Honor

Call to Confession

With sincere hearts and minds, let us confess our sins before God and the world, trusting in God's mercy to forgive.

Prayer of Confession

God of Light, we confess that we live in the shadow of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with human traditions and norms and avoid your liberating truth. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit so that we may serve you with sincere hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Though we have fallen short, God reaches out to us in loving forgiveness, God is with us, celebrating this day and walking all the way to the cross with us. For the time of salvation is near. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

Sermon: *"When the Journey Becomes too Hard"*

Acknowledging the Gifts of our Time and Talent

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

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Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.]

***Celebration of The Lord's Supper**

(Pause to invite those who have not already prepared elements to do so.)

Invitation

For Holy Communion this morning, I invite you to lend Christ your table. On the first day of Holy week long ago, people throughout Judea arrived at the dusty gates of Jerusalem, primed with “Hosanna” in their hearts and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey. On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given John Mark’s mother’s Upper Room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples.

On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless. Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart, for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, “The Lord has need of it.”

Prayer of Consecration

We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God’s blessing upon them.

Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your child shelters in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

Words of Remembering

We remember that Paul the apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout places we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia, and they were the first “remote” worship

resources. Our online service has a long heritage. The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sharing of the Elements

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen

Hymn#197: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Benediction

*<https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/03/26/communion-for-palm-sunday-april-5-2020/>

HOLY WEEK: MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY

April 6-8, 2020 — Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

9am - Prayer and Devotion

Noon - Prayer, Gospel Lesson and Reflection

9pm - Prayer and Devotion

April 10, 2020 — Maundy Thursday @ 7pm

Prelude

Opening Sentences

A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us. A meal of bread and wine, of meat and bitter herbs. The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance. The Lord calls us to serve and to be served. As we break the bread and share the cup, our understanding may fail us. But we will never forget Christ's example. We will never forget the full extent of his love.

Call to Confession

As we remember this night of betrayal and desertion, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Go, we have not loved you with all our hearts and mind and soul and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as you have taught us. We are indifferent to the saving grace of your Word and life. Lord, in your mercy forgive and heal us by your steadfast love made known to us in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." **Amen.**

Special Music

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sermon: *"In Remembrance"*

Hymn of Response #215 What Wondrous Love is This (verses 1, 2)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Offering our Prayers of Gratitude

So now, in gratitude, we join our voices to those of the Church on earth and in heaven:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord God, as we come to share the richness of your table, we cannot forget the rawness of the earth. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. Your world is one world and we are stewards of its nourishment.

Lord, put our prosperity at the service of the poor.

We cannot take wine and forget those who are thirsty. The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.

Lord, put our fullness at the service of the empty.

We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war or, if not at war, then preparing for it.

Show us quickly Lord, how to turn weapons into welcome signs and the lust for power into a desire for peace.

We cannot celebrate the feast of our family and forget our divisions. We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us.

Lord, heal our church in every brokenness.

For us you were born, for us you healed, preached, taught and showed the way to heaven; for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again.

Lord Jesus Christ, very present with us now, for all that you have done and all that you have promised, what have we to offer? Our hands are empty; our hearts are sometimes full of wrong things. We are not fit to gather up the crumbs from under your table. But with you there is mercy and the power to change us. So as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes. Amen.

Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Partaking in the Bread and Wine

The Body of Christ. The Cup of Salvation

Prayer after Communion

Closing Responses

The cross...**WE SHALL TAKE IT.**

The pain...**WE SHALL BEAR IT.**

The joy...**WE SHALL SHARE IT.**

The Gospel...**WE SHALL LIVE IT.**

The love...**WE SHALL GIVE IT.**

The light...**WE SHALL CHERISH IT.**

The darkness...**GOD SHALL PERISH IT.**

Hymn#215

What Wondrous Love is This

(verses 3, 4)

Go in Silence: There is no benediction of peace for our hearts are not in peace, but in grief, The Holy Days are upon us. Let us remember the sorrow as we wait for the glory.

April 10, 2020 GOOD FRIDAY SELF GUIDED
Light candle and hold cross as you read, reflect and pray.

The Shadow of the Cross: John 19: 17-20

...and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

John 19:38-42 The Burial of Jesus

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Endings are always beginnings. Think of your life story as a circle instead of a straight line and you will see why. PRACTICE

- 1) Welcome stillness wherever you can - sitting on the grass, looking out a window, walking your dog.
- 2) Breathe the next breath as if it was your last.
- 3) Exhale with the blessed awareness that it wasn't.
- 4) Read (or recite - bonus points for memorization -) this line from the poem by Christine Valters Painter poem: ***"Give thanks for your ancestors, for the wars and plagues they endured and survived, their resilience is in your bones, your blood."***
- 5) Sing it aloud if you like. (Just make up a tune. Let it come to you. Lay your hand on your windpipe and feel your vocal cords vibrate as you sing.)
- 6) Discern on one of your ancestors who has died. One whom you still have a strong connection to. Open your mind and heart to hold a space of acceptance - not approving, not disapproving. Just acknowledging and accepting. Sit in this space with the ancestor.

7) Read or recite the line from the poem again.

8) Say this if it feels appropriate: "I am here because of you. I am me because of you. Accompany me now that I may be resilient and loving to those I know and those I do not know. And may peace flow through you and me, around you and me and encircle us all."

9) Listen as you welcome stillness once more.

10) Read or Sing the Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Christine Valters Paintner, Spiritual Directors International

***Easter Sunday Service**
April 12, 2020 10:30 AM

Welcome to this joyous Easter day!
Praise God for the gift of new life.

He is risen from the dead. ALLELUIA!

Sing your praises to the Lord!

For God has given to us new life! ALLELUIA! AMEN.

Hymn#245: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (verses 1, 2, 3)

Call to Confession

God sent his son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Therefore, in faith and in humility, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that like the disciples of old, we ran and hid, in our hearts, from the terror and sadness of the crucifixion. We didn't want to be there. We found ways of avoiding the scene and pretending that it was all a bad dream. But it wasn't a dream. Jesus our Lord was crucified. That's a fact. And we were numbed by the news. But now we have been given the most blessed gift of forgiveness for our stupidity and stubbornness; we have been given the gift of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Light has shined in our deep darkness. Restore us again to your presence. Soften our hard hearts. Brighten our spirits, for we ask this in the name of the Resurrected One, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon

Do not fear. God has conquered death. Jesus Christ, who was crucified, is risen from the dead. Love has been poured out again for each one of us. ALLELUIA! AMEN.

The darkness has been overcome. Jesus Christ has defeated our greatest fear, death. ALLELUIA! AMEN.

Special Music:

New Testament Lesson: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: *"What happens to those who deny Christ?"*

Hymn of Response#246 Christ is Alive!

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn#245: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (verse 4)

Benediction

*<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4560/worship-connection-april-12-2020>