



St John's Episcopal Church - Holy Week and Easter at Home, Easter 2020

Dear Friends,

This pack contains suggestions of prayers, liturgies and other activities for Holy Week and Easter this year. You are invited to use these as are useful for your own spiritual journey through Holy Week. Some may be familiar, others less so, however, my invitation is to try these out. This is a season of change, uncertainty and adjustment and none of us are able to do many of the things that allow us to mark the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, although we cannot meet in person this does not change the events of Easter, nor stop us remembering and commemorating them. The seasons are constant, the sun continues to rise and set, in the same way God continues to love us, care for us and the history of God and humanity cannot be changed. No matter what is going on around us God still loved the world so much that God sent his only son, Jesus to the world so each of us could have eternal life. We may be physically isolated, but we are not separated, we are still the body of Christ and we are still the church.

You are invited to create a holy space in your house and to create an Easter garden, sharing images of the latter with friends, family and the community of St John's via email (or photo when we can gather together again). Information on these is contained in this pack. The liturgies and suggestions here assume you have access to a Bible. If you don't, let me know and I'll arrive for you to have one. As ever, please get in contact if you have questions, want a chat or anything else. Please feel free to pass my contact details onto friends and family if you think they would find them useful (07984 891894, revjennyholden@gmail.com).

If you are receiving this via the post then you will receive a palm cross, my hands were washed at all stages of the printing, packing and posting process of this mail out. On Palm Sunday you are invited to put a branch on your front door in a window to celebrate Palm Sunday. You may wish to adorn it with flowers (real, artificial, hand drawn) on Easter Sunday. You are invited to make an Easter Garden (small, large; indoor, outdoor; real plants or drawn ones), you might wish to do this throughout the week or on Good Friday.

Liturgies for Morning Prayer (Holy Week and the Week following Easter) are contained here, if you'd like to say Morning Prayer with me drop me a line. Compline is included here for use Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week (and beyond if you wish). This will be said via Zoom (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/573339516>) and on St John's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsCrownTerrace>) as a Facebook Live at 8pm Monday 6th to Wednesday 8th April. The Compline text is taken from the Scottish Prayer Book (1929).

There are reflections for each day of Holy Week, you may wish to use these as part of Morning Prayer or as a pause in the middle of the day or at some other time. You can use these on your own or discuss them with the people in your household or perhaps with those you speak to on the phone or via other means.

On Maundy Thursday you are invited to say morning prayer, then participate in an act of humility, repentance and renewal. This is followed by the Maundy Thursday Watch, either in silence or with a cycle of readings.

On Good Friday you invited to say Morning Prayer, use the adapted Good Friday liturgy and use the Tenebrae service in the evening. A Tenebrae service is being produced by Revd Lynsay Downs from St Ternan's, Banchory that will be available from their website from Palm Sunday evening. On Holy Saturday – Easter Eve there is a liturgy provided which can be after sunset (around 8pm, but ideally when it is dark) or early morning on Easter Sunday (sunrise is traditional 6.06am in Aberdeen on Easter Sunday). There is a series of readings provided which are usually used when the Easter Vigil is in the evening of Holy Saturday. There is likely to be a service online provided by the Province on Good Friday. The liturgies for Friday and Saturday are in the same booklet.

On Easter Sunday we will have our usual Scottish Prayer Book 9.30am Morning Prayer service (with Easter Anthems) with Facebook Live and Zoom options. At 11am you can join the Broadcast Sunday Worship from the SEC via Facebook or YouTube (at the time or later) or use the St John's Service of the Word (seasonal variations at the back of the booklet).

The days after Easter Sunday, you are invited to continue to say Morning Prayer, perhaps you may wish to continue to use Compline. If you want ideas of Daily Prayer liturgies let me know.

During Holy Week on Thursday and Friday BBC Radio 3 is broadcasting music for Maundy Thursday and Bach's St John's Passion, both at 2pm. Slow Radio at 10.45pm during Holy Week is Meditations from a Monastery (BBC Radio 3). On Easter Sunday BBC Radio 3's Words and Music (5.30pm) is focussed on Easter. Choral Evensong is broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesdays at 3.30 pm, and repeated on Sundays at 3.00 pm. Sunday Worship is broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Sundays at 8.10 am, and the Daily Service is on the same channel, Monday to Friday, at 9.45 am.

On the television, On Sundays on BBC Scotland (TV) at 12.15pm there are ecumenical Reflections at the Quay. Songs of Praise is broadcast on BBC One on Sundays at 1.15 pm. On Holy Saturday (11th) at 7pm on BBC 2 is music and readings for Holy Week and Easter from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. On BBC 2 at 3pm on Good Friday and on BBC 1 at 10.10am on Easter Sunday is a programme on Britain's Easter Story looking at stories, music and traditions of Easter in the UK. On Easter Sunday on BBC 1 at 11.25 is Sunday Worship from Bangor Cathedral (this is on every Sunday but the time moves a bit). BBC Alba's Alleluia programme continues to broadcast at 7.30pm on Sunday evenings with a mix of hymns, psalms, readings and interviews (with English subtitles where appropriate).

At the start of Lent, I asked how each of us would be changed this Lent, what would be different by the time we reached Holy Week this year. None of us could have imagined we would be in this place right now, being asked to take up our crosses for the love of our neighbour in this way. However, no matter how we meet, how we mark this Holy Week and Easter God still sent Jesus to earth for humanity, Jesus was crucified, died, buried and resurrected so that we might have eternal life. The hope of the first Easter, previous celebrations of Easter, this Easter is still there, God's mercy and love endure forever.

I close with the Easter Sunday blessing may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and all those whom we love and remain with us always.

Rev Jenny