

## Resources for Families for Holy Week and Easter at Home

It might be that you have always engaged in Holy Week, or you may never have or something in between- but none of us have ever been in a Pandemic before, and with this new challenge facing us, we are offering new ways to do Holy Week. All Saints would like to encourage you to consider marking this coming week with simple, at home worship to move with your family through the darkness of Holy Week to the light of the resurrection on Easter.

Here are sites where you can get TONS of ideas, coloring sheets and craft projects to celebrate both Holy Week and Easter:

<https://buildfaith.org/holy-week/> Great site with a lot of options for family and child worship. I use this site often when looking for ideas for church school. Nice range from the simple to the more complex.

[https://issuu.com/churchpublishing/docs/holy\\_week\\_activities\\_for\\_families\\_final?r=sY2ZmOTExMTA5NTI&utm\\_campaign=test&utm\\_source=ExactTarget&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=https%3a%2f%2fissuu.com%2fchurchpublishing%2fdocs%2fholy\\_week\\_activities\\_for\\_families\\_final%3fr%3dsY2ZmOTExMTA5NTI&utm\\_term=Holy+Week+Resources+-+Free+Download](https://issuu.com/churchpublishing/docs/holy_week_activities_for_families_final?r=sY2ZmOTExMTA5NTI&utm_campaign=test&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_medium=email&utm_content=https%3a%2f%2fissuu.com%2fchurchpublishing%2fdocs%2fholy_week_activities_for_families_final%3fr%3dsY2ZmOTExMTA5NTI&utm_term=Holy+Week+Resources+-+Free+Download) Monster link, I know. But Church Publishing has put together an amazing array of free resources- including Lego lessons, baking, coloring sheets, stories and activities. All free.

## From us here At All Saints' Chelmsford

### Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins this Sunday with Palm Sunday. The Church School classes will be talking about this. In support of social distancing we will not be distributing palms this year, but you can watch the All Saints Palm Sunday service online. And consider joining us for online coffee hour. The zoom link will be emailed to you Sunday morning.

### For Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Morning Prayer on Zoom: The service is open at 7:45am, it begins at 8am. Morning prayer is defined by the Episcopal Church "as a daily service for the worship of the church." It does not have a eucharistic feast, and can be lead by lay people. It is a relatively short service (30 minutes) of prayers and readings. During Holy Week it will be lead by Katie LaRoche, Amy Hunter, Lynne McSheehy and Lynne Grillo. You are invited to join us. All parishioners will be

muted, so it is no problem if your house is crazy busy and loud, you can join us in peaceful prayer each morning.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/632997874?pwd=K2xkd1lrN0dpWU10T3pNSG9xeVFDZz09>

## For Maundy Thursday:

Maundy Thursday will have a service posted on the All Saints' Website. I encourage you to watch. Here is a simple idea to try at home:

Hand Washing Prayer:

<https://www.barefoottheology.com/2020/03/19/at-home-worship/>

Preparation [In times of pandemic/epidemic]

Provided by The Rev. Josephine Robertson, All Saints Episcopal Church, Bellevue, WA and the Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews, St. Hilda St. Patrick, Edmonds, WA.

This prayer is a very elegant attempt to protect a ritual hand-washing from antiseptic / self-protective associations and link it explicitly to the second commandment and to Jesus' care for the vulnerable. One may ponder whether it succeeds or whether hand-washing would better occur outside the rite. – Dr. James Farwell

Leader: We begin by washing, as we were washed in our baptism. We cleanse our hands as we were cleansed in the waters of new birth. We do this not because we are afraid, but because we were commanded to love, and to cleanse our hands, and gather in spirit, is how we love the vulnerable, whom Jesus loved. May we be instruments of love. May the sacrifices we make be for the good of our human family near and far. Each person present then washes their hands thoroughly with soap and water. Once washed each should help with setting the table as they are able.

Leader: Blessed be our God.

All: For ever and ever. Amen. ....

## Good Friday

There are two very different services available from All Saints on Good Friday. Traditionally we have had a noon day service of the veneration of the cross. This year that service will be recorded and available on the website. In the evening, at 7pm, we will hold a live Zoom service, which you can join- to watch the Stations of the Cross as created by our youth in the Upper

School Program. Rev. Paul will be there to open and close the service in Prayer. We encourage you to join us.

## Saturday Easter Vigil

Here is my confession: This is a service I had never been to, juggling kids and Easter and family obligations...but Rev Paul has created a simple and beautiful service to do at home. With some candles, water, and prayer, you wait for sundown and then bring light to the world as we celebrate the coming resurrection. I have attached the pdf of the service. This is a great way to let your kids who are readers lead in the prayers, and everyone gets to (safely) light candles. It can be really dramatic if you have the space and a firepit- you can do it outside!

## EASTER SUNDAY

This is complicated. This will be an Easter unlike any we have had before. For many of us, it might be the first time we are separated from extended families and friends. The news of the Pandemic will likely be disheartening, so consider gathering as a family to watch the All Saints' Church Service. PLEASE send us your family photos so we can include it in the end of the service. Then join your church friends at our Zoom coffee hour for a passing of the peace. The link will be emailed to you on Sunday morning. Then take a moment to let yourself feel the peace, joy and celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Amen. Alleluia.