

Resources for Holy Week 2020, First Baptist Church of Muncie, Indiana

Welcome to some resources for Holy Week! Whether you live alone, with kids, grandkids, or friends, together we spend time actively remembering the work of Jesus Christ for us. There are two things we suggest everyone does—worship on Palm Sunday and worship on Easter! The rest of these are available resources. Perhaps you have time and energy to do one of them, or maybe one a day! We are not earning God’s favor by what we do. But we are “setting our affections on heavenly things!” (Colossians 3.2). We have good news to share!

The fine print: Be wise in your use of digital resources. A post listing on this resource guide does not mean that all resources on the suggested website fit the philosophy and outlook of Christians at First Baptist Church of Muncie. These ideas come from a variety of sources that are not all documented in this short guide. Reach out and ask questions if you want to know more about the source of a particular idea!

Palm Sunday--Be sure to worship online with FBC-Muncie!

Idea One: Praise Parade! Make some palm branches (free style or use the ideas at this link: <http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpalm.htm>) Then march around your living room shouting “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” Percussion instruments optional!

Idea Two: Put Greens on your Door! (and not members of the Green family!!!) What if everyone on Sunday April 5 in the morning, puts a branch on the door of their house or on the window, to celebrate Palm Sunday? It could be any green branch you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks.

Digital Resource: Animated version of the Gospel story produced by GraceLink “A Praise Parade” <https://youtu.be/mq64oLGugp8>

Holy Monday (often associated with Jesus being anointed at Bethany)

Idea One: Our family used “Resurrection Eggs” as a tactile way for kids to move through the Easter story at their own pace. You can purchase at: <https://shop.familylife.com/p-3504-resurrection-eggs.aspx> You can follow these directions to make your own: <https://lifeyourway.net/diy-resurrection-eggs-easter-story-book-printables/>

Idea Two: Read the story associated with this day at Matthew 26.6-13 (also found in Mark, Luke, and John!). Then use this craft idea to help kids reenact Matthew 26: Trace feet on construction paper and then draw tears on the feet. You can even put on some lipstick and kiss the feet and then spray with “perfume.” See illustration at <https://hebidsthemcome.com/2016/01/13/jesus-anointed/>

Digital Resource: Imagine the story as CeeCee Winans sings “Alabaster Vase.” <https://youtu.be/wySP311eUcs>

Holy Tuesday (often associated with Jesus predicting His own death)

Idea One: Go on a prayer walk (using social distancing) alone or with someone. Need ideas for topics? Even though I doubt you will drive to Blacksburg, VA, you can still pray through the kinds of places mentioned in this guide available at this link:

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<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/holy-week-prayer-walk/> (download is a separate click after opening link).

Idea Two: This may be more than a one day investment! Reading the entire story of holy week to deepen your understanding of Christ's actions. One suggested order is found in this article:

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/holy-week-in-uncertain-times>

Digital Resource: Meditate on the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus from John 17.

<https://youtu.be/LgfamotdZck>

Holy Wednesday (often associated with Judas who agrees to betray Jesus)

Idea One: Create a visual reminder in your home of Christ's walk through this week. See this resource for some ideas used in a church setting (instead of a home setting):

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/visual-arts-in-holy-week-orchard-hill-church-palm-sunday>

Idea Two: Wednesday of Holy Week has been a traditional day in many countries for housecleaning -- from the Jewish custom of cleaning before Passover. Enjoy!

Digital Resource: What would it be like to understand the motivation of Judas? Are we ever upside down in our understanding of this week?

<https://skitguys.com/more/videos/easter-upside-down-judas>

Maundy Thursday (from the "mandate" Jesus gave to love one another)

Idea One: Hold a foot washing service with those around you. Many ways this could be done including some mentioned in this link:

<https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/articles/the-real-meaning-of-foot-washing-for-christians.aspx>

Idea Two: Hold a Christian Seder meal. This is a lengthy commitment (up to a two hour meal), but can help us understand the roots of communion. One of many possible guides is found at

<http://www.crivoice.org/haggadah.html>

Digital Resource: ChuckKnowsChurch "65 Foot Washing"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_Y5fM9lyBo

Good Friday (called good because it brought our salvation)

Idea One: Seeds offer a clear message to use of the power of new life. Rest eggshell halves filled with soil in egg carton. Plant a marigold, petunia, or grapefruit seed in each (or even grass seed for fastest results). Place in sunny window. Discuss this verse with those around you: John 12.24.

Idea Two: Meditate on Psalm 22 (which Jesus quotes while on the cross). Read in a variety of translations then listen to this multi-lingual version: <https://youtu.be/R83sNxHTzq4>
worshipanew's Psalm 22

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Digital Resource: PatorRufus1: It's Friday... But Sunday's a-coming!

https://youtu.be/8gx6_rGLz20

Holy Saturday (a day of waiting for God's salvation)

Idea One: Make "Tomb Cookies" as a way to reenact the story in a child-friendly way including using a stove as a tomb overnight! Several recipes available including this one:

<https://www.food.com/recipe/empty-tomb-cookies-220621>

Idea Two: If you have safe access to a fire pit or other place to have an outdoor fire, gather around and keep a vigil as you wait for the morning when Jesus arose. You don't have to stay up all night, but talk about how fire is a sign of Jesus being the light of the world. What other symbols of the resurrection are around us?

Digital Resource: as you are waiting for Resurrection Day, what about this text brings you hope? Hymn of Promise (In the bulb there is a flower):

<https://youtu.be/2Gndx39q7QM> First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska-Videos "In the Bulb."

Resurrection Sunday (He is risen! He is risen indeed!) **Be sure to worship online with FBC-Muncie!**

Idea One: Dress up, take a picture of the people worshipping together, post it to facebook in honor of our risen Lord! Include the traditional greeting (He is risen! He is risen indeed!) in the comment portion of the post!

Idea Two: Write in chalk on your driveway or sidewalk the words, "Christ is risen!"

Digital Resource: View an additional online service of a church of another racial or ethnic background and offer your prayers for that community.

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For additional ideas see books like "Family Celebrations At Easter" by Ann Hibbard, and websites like

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-worship-resources-for-churches-adapting-to-social-isolation#Holy%20Week> and

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/easter/15-ways-to-observe-holy-week-with-your-family-11570532.html>