

Beloved Immanuel Anglican Church,

This has been a Lent like none other in our lifetimes. The deadly coronavirus has spread around the world bringing sickness, death and a screeching halt to life as we know it. Even if you're not physically or financially affected by this crisis, you are likely grappling with the loss of your normal community, rhythms and plans.

There was never a better time for Holy Week. For Jesus and his followers, Holy Week was anything but serene and normal! The final days and hours of his life were marked by uncertainty, danger, solemn prayers and sacred meals, betrayal, confusion, and death. And throughout history, the people of God have celebrated Holy Week in terrible circumstances: war, plague, famine, invasion of foreign armies, time of confusion and great pain.

This is the world Jesus came to save. This is the world Jesus came to heal! During the events of Holy Week, we enter the story of Jesus. We don't leave our problems of this life behind – we bring them with us, and we send them to the cross of Christ. And on Easter, we set all our hopes for wholeness and eternal life on the risen Christ.

Before us is the dawn of Easter, the promise of Heaven. Sooner or later, darkness will give way to light. Let us be ready for that dawn as we keep watch with Jesus in the final hours of his life. Receive the gift of Holy Week; it is a gift for such a time as this.

During Holy Week at Immanuel Anglican, we will journey with Jesus through the final days of his life, his death on the cross, and his resurrection from the grave. Each service has incredible moments where we can participate in the story. Join us for these online gatherings and use the resources on the following pages to follow along in your household throughout the week.

With love,
Father Aaron

HOLY WEEK ONLINE GATHERINGS

April 5 | Palm Sunday Service | 10AM (*More info on page 3.*)

April 9 | Maundy Thursday | 7PM (*More info on page 4.*)

April 10 | Good Friday Service | 7PM (*More info on page 5.*)

April 11 | [Easter Vigil Service*](#) | 7PM (*More info on page 6.*)

April 12 | Easter Sunday | 10AM (*More info on page 7.*)

**We will be joining the Diocese for the Easter Vigil! Immanuel services can be found [here](#).*

GET READY FOR THE SERVICES

1. Print out the bulletins. (These will be available [here](#) on the day of each service.)
2. Grab your Bibles and journals.
3. Get the live stream ready on your largest, most central screen.
4. Turn off devices (or silence notifications) on all devices you're not using for the service.
5. Gather the items listed below.
6. *Optional:* Print out [coloring sheets](#) for children in your household.

HOLY WEEK AT HOME | CHECKLIST

- Bulletins for each service
- [Coloring sheets](#) for each service
- Your largest screen ready for the live stream
- Writing utensil / Art supplies
- Your Bible and journal
- A large cross (*More info on page 9!*)
- Black fabric
- Palm branches
- Basin and towels for foot washing
- Individual candles for the vigil
- Bells, streamers, & noisemakers
- Flowers



Palm Sunday is the day we commemorate the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem, when he was greeted by a crowd, waving palm branches and shouting “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” With our own palms, we remember and join the crowds who sang “hosanna” to Jesus as an earthly king, perceiving his glory in limited and worldly terms, based on our own human experiences and expectations.

What you need:

- Palm branches! If you don’t have a palm tree in your house, you can make branches out of green construction paper like [this](#) or like [this](#).

What to do:

- Have your palms ready to march through your house during the beginning of the service.

Other Ideas:

- Light a large candle at the beginning of the service.
- Do a [prayer walk](#) around your neighborhood with your palm branches in the 30 minutes before the service!
- After the service, hang palm branches in the home until Maundy Thursday.



By the time Maundy Thursday arrives, we begin to see Jesus with different eyes. He is the Christ revealed to us in humility as the embodiment of God’s love. On Maundy Thursday we remember the final night of Jesus’ life when he washed his disciples’ feet, instituted the Last Supper, and told them, “A new commandment I give to you that you love one another.”

Note: Traditionally, we have a service of foot-washing during our Maundy Thursday service. This year, during the “foot-washing” section of the service, we will have several minutes set apart to unite our hearts in prayer for our brothers and sisters, especially those we are unable to be physically present to right now. Many of us live alone, but if you live with others and would like to wash one another’s feet during this time of prayer, we encourage you to do so - go ahead and gather the items below:

What you need for the foot washing:

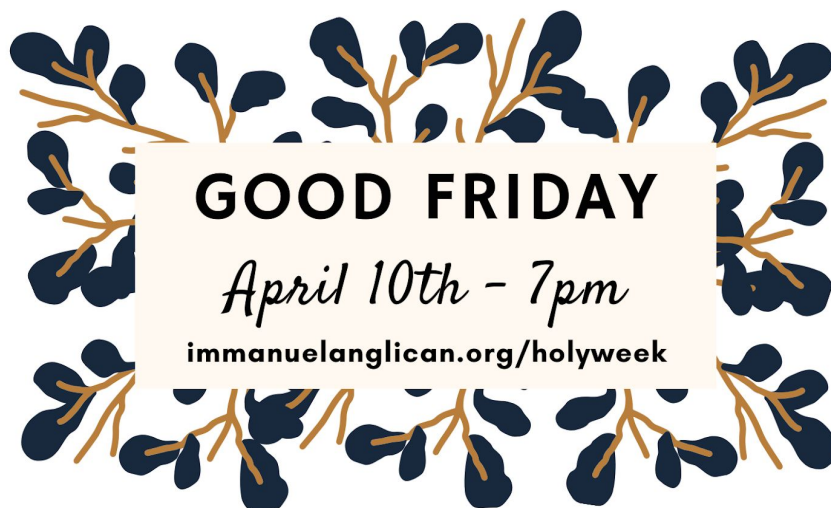
- A container, bin, or bucket (large enough to fit your feet!)
- A towel or two

What to do:

- During the service, take turns following Jesus’ example and washing each others’ feet.

Other Ideas:

- Light a large candle at the beginning of the service.



To be present at the cross on Good Friday, even as Mary and John were, is to finally see the glory of Jesus in God's terms. He has won for us the victory over sin and death. His sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins has made the saving power of his blood eternally present to us. On Good Friday we tell the story of the Passion of Jesus as we remember the love of God that was demonstrated by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

What you need:

- The cross.

What to do:

- During the service, move the cross from where it has been throughout Holy Week and lay it on the floor in a place where you can kneel next to it, to touch it and pray.
- [Give](#) to the Good Friday fund. (*More info on page 8.*)
- After the service, move through the "Stations of the Cross" online, as a way to reflect on the love and suffering of our Lord. *Stay tuned to our livestream page for more information.*
- We also hope to have prayer ministers available to pray for you (over a Zoom call) after the service ends. *Stay tuned to our livestream page for instructions.*

Other Ideas:

- Fast on Good Friday from food or from something else to spend time in prayer and silence.
- Wear black for the service.
- Light a large candle at the beginning of the service.
- Families with children can draw the Passion story in chalk on your sidewalk.



During the Easter Vigil, we gather in the late evening to recount the ancient stories of how God has saved his people in ages past, with the assurance that Christ has not abandoned us to sin and death, but is coming to save us. The Easter Vigil is an ancient Christian tradition celebrated on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. The service begins in darkness and then includes the reading of Old Testament stories of God's salvation.

What you need:

- A candle for each person to hold.

What to do:

- At the beginning of the service, light your candle. When the readings from scripture begin, you can extinguish it.

Other Ideas:

- During the day on Holy Saturday, tell your baptism stories as we get ready to remember and renew our baptisms on Easter Sunday. Make a video or write your testimony / baptism story and send it to others or post on social media. (You can also send to jennifer@immanuelanglican.org.)
- Prayer walk throughout your neighborhood, praying for the light of Jesus to shine. Check out [this how-to prayer walk](#) guide.
- Get ready - buy some flowers that you can bring out on Easter morning.
- Read through the Vigil stories throughout the day ([see them here](#)). Families with children can also consider dressing up and acting out one of the Vigil stories (Red Sea, Creation, etc.).



On Easter Sunday we continue the celebration that began at the Easter Vigil! Today we participate in the glory of God’s victory over sin and death as we “hasten to see the stone rolled back, and even the angels perhaps, and Jesus himself.” Christ is risen—and we are raised with him into the newness of eternal life.

What you need:

- Bells, streamers, anything that makes noise!

What to do:

- Clear some space in front of your screen so you have room to dance.
- At the Holy Noise, shout, dance, ring the bells, waive the streamers! Throw open your windows and shout “Alleluia, Christ is Risen!” to your neighborhood.

Other Ideas:

- Wear something festive and special!
- Wake up before sunrise on Easter morning and find somewhere to watch the sunrise, remembering that the light of Christ has dawned upon us (Isaiah 60).
- Have a special meal on Easter Sunday.
- Take a photo in your Easter celebration clothes and post online or send to jennifer@immanuelanglican.org to share with the church.

MORE INFO & RESOURCES

MAKING A CROSS:

- If you have a cross in your home that is meaningful to you, use it!
- If possible, use a cross that is simple (not too ornamental or decorative), large, and helps you connect to the actual cross of Jesus.
- If you don't have one, this is a great time to get one or make one to have in your living room throughout Holy Week. You could make one out of wood with instructions like [this](#), or a simpler one [like this](#), cut one out of paper or cardboard and attach to your wall, or gather branches from your yard to tie together into a cross.
- Set the cross up in a central location (close to the place where you'll view the services) before Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday cover it with dark fabric, on Good Friday lay it on the ground, and on Easter Sunday put some flowers on it!

GOOD FRIDAY GIFT

Every year on Good Friday, Immanuel collects a special offering on behalf of people who are suffering in the world around us. As we partner sacrificially with our neighbors in need, we reflect Jesus' suffering servanthood. This Good Friday, we have decided to take up a unique offering to serve those in need both in our city and our Immanuel community.

One half (50%) of the donations given for Good Friday will go to the [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#). GCFD is the central hub for a network of more than 700 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other programs in Chicagoland that provide food where it's most needed. The economic impact of COVID-19 is likely to increase food insecurity in our city, and GCFD is already hard at work responding to the increased need for food.

The other half (50%) of the donations given for Good Friday will go to a **“COVID19 Mercy Fund”** that will help people in our own congregation face short-term financial challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.*

You can [give online](#) (specifying the “Good Friday” fund) during the Good Friday service (or at any other time between now and April 15th).

**(The monies given to the COVID19 Mercy Fund will be restricted to requests for financial assistance from COVID-19 hardships for the remainder of 2020; any amount remaining at the end of the year will be placed in our general Benevolence Fund that provides financial assistance for members of our community.)*

SHARE YOUR “HOLY WEEK AT HOME” WITH US!

- If you post pictures and videos of your Holy Week celebrations, tag us (@chicagoanglican) or use hashtag #chicagoanglicanholyweek.

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Holy Week Devotional Guide](#) from Immanuel Anglican Church
- [Why We Celebrate the Easter Vigil](#) by Canon Stephen Gauthier
- [A Guide to Holy Week](#) by Church of the Resurrection
- [God’s Saving Deeds](#) Easter Vigil Devotional & Art Book from Church of the Resurrection
- [Lenten & Good Friday](#) Devotional & Art Book from Church of the Resurrection
- [Holy Week Devotions](#) for each day of the week from City of Light.
- [Holy Week Explained Videos](#) by Church of the Resurrection
- [Easter Vigil Reading Videos](#) from past Vigils at Church of the Resurrection