

Mattituck Presbyterian Church

*Guide to Holy
Week*

April 5 - 12, 2020

Word of Encouragement from Pastor Robert

Dear Brothers and Sisters Christ,

We all have a unique opportunity during this time of isolation to draw closer to Christ. I pray that you are spending more time in God's word and prayer this season. As we approach Holy Week, there is no better time to meditate on the foundation of our faith. I want to encourage you to take advantage of these devotionals that Pat Hanly has put together for our congregation. There are pertinent scripture passages and thoughtful quotations that can draw you closer to the Lord. During stressful and anxious times, we need to meditate on the core of the Christian message as it is displayed in all its horror, wonder, and mercy during holy week.

About 40% of the four gospels narrative spend time telling the story of the last week of Jesus's life – his passion. It is essential to understand what this week means and have it transform you. Jesus is not just a great moral teacher or merely a great example for us to follow, but Jesus is our Savior. All of his life and the whole narrative of the Bible leads up to and centers on the cross. We are people of the good news, but we also need to understand the bad news – why Jesus had to come. The agony of Jesus taking the world's sin upon him more than anything else is the agony of Holy Week. The fact that we are freed and forgiven of our sin and experience new life in Christ is the reason to Rejoice on Resurrection Sunday. I pray that we understand Christ's agony and again rejoice greatly in our redemption.

Grace and Peace,

Robert

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How to Use this Guide

This guide was made as a Holy Week daily devotion. It is designed to be used each day of Holy Week and it contains scripture readings, reflection questions, poetry, music lyrics and activities. The Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday activity pages direct you to the MPC website where there will be web pages for each of these days containing music, messages from Pastor Robert and other links of interest.

Important Note regarding the Passover Seder: The Maundy Thursday activity includes a viewing of the Passover Seder from Jews for Jesus. This is the Seder that was going to be at the church and you can still participate by watching it on a LiveStream. This Livestream requires pre-registration on the Jews for Jesus website at <https://jewsforjesus.org/christ-in-the-passover-online>. Once you are on this page, scroll down to the event at 8pm on Thursday, April 2nd and click on the 8pm time (you can attend at a different time if you prefer). Clicking on the time will take you to the page with a registration box. Click in that box to register at the Eventbrite page. Once you put in your information to register, you will get an email confirmation. You will need to setup an account with Eventbrite to view your tickets, which you will need to be allowed into the Livestream. We highly recommend that you attend this amazing event. Pat is available to help anyone who needs it with pre-registration. Please drop him an email at pat@mattpres.com or call him at 631-734-8059 and he will help you register (he can do it for you if you need).

Palm Sunday

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

Luke 19:28-42

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” 32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” 34 They replied, “The Lord needs it.” 35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” 40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” 41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

Reflections

- *Why did Jesus choose to enter Jerusalem in such a humble fashion, riding on a donkey?*
- *Consider how you could live your life with the same humility of Christ.*
- *Why did the Pharisees want Jesus to rebuke His disciples?*
- *Why did Jesus weep over the city? Do we have the same sadness over people in our day who reject what Christ came to teach?*

Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Activities

Watch the Sunday Virtual Service on the website.

(www.mattpres.com)

Find a prominent place in your home to display your palm cross. Once it is hung up or otherwise displayed, say the following prayer together as a family,

Lord Jesus, may this palm cross remind us each day this week that you came to your people as a humble King so that you might freely give your life for our salvation. Help us to have the same humility in our own lives as we prepare our hearts to meditate upon your Passion and death. As the crowd did when you entered Jerusalem, we lift you up in joyful praise. You are our one true King!

Holy Week Monday

Jesus at the Temple

Luke 19:45-48

45 When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. 46 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” 47 Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief

priests,
the
teachers
of the law
and the
leaders
among

5 “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory. – Hebrews 3:5-6

the people were trying to kill him. 48 Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

Luke 20:1-8

1 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him.

2 “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?” 3 He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: 4 John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

5 They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ 6 But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us, because they are

persuaded
that John
was a

I am not a Christian because God changed my life; I am a Christian because of my convictions about who Jesus Christ is. – Josh McDowell

prophet.” 7 So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.” 8 Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Reflections

- Why is it important to consider God’s House a house of prayer? Both Paul in the Book of Ephesians and the writer of the Book of Hebrews says that we, the believers, are God’s house today. In this context, what does it mean to say today that God’s house is a house of prayer?
- At this point in the Gospels, Jesus has come into Jerusalem on the donkey. He was the King mounted on the donkey. In these passages above, does it appear that He is speaking and acting with the authority of a King?
- In Matthew 28:18, Jesus tells His disciples that “...all authority on heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” What does it mean to think of Jesus as having this level of authority in our world today?

Holy Week Tuesday

Introduction: According to the Gospel of Luke, Jesus taught some of His parables after His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem as King. On this Tuesday of Holy Week read one of the parables, the Parable of the Tenants.

The Parable of the Tenants

Luke 20:9-19

9 He went on to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. 10 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. 12 He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. 13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.' 14 "But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. 'This is the heir,' they said. 'Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When the people heard this, they said, "God forbid!" 17 Jesus looked directly at them and asked, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written: " 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? 18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed." 19 The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

*We make a living by what we get; we
make a life by what we give.
— Winston Churchill*

Reflections

- *Do you consider yourself a steward over the things that God has given you? Holy week is a good time to assess how you have used the blessings God has given you for His purposes.*
- *Take some time to consider how you have used what God has given you and how you would do things differently after this Easter.*
- *Say a short prayer of guidance and commitment regarding the things God has given you.*

*All Christians are but God's stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him.
— John MacArthur*

Holy Week Wednesday

Introduction: For Wednesday of Holy Week, we present various songs, poems, verses and quotes for meditation and prayer. Read each together as a family slowly, at various times during the day today (one at morning, noon, late afternoon, at dinner, in the evening, at bedtime and discuss or meditate on their meaning)



Gethsemane

It was the debate of a lifetime, the decision of an eternity.
Who would have given boredom, the late hour,

***I see His Blood Upon the Rose*, by Joseph Mary Plunkett**

I see his blood upon the rose
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,
His body gleams amid eternal snows,
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower;
The thunder and the singing of the birds
Are but his voice – and carven by his power
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,
His cross is every tree.

the heavy meal, as
an excuse for dozing
off
while a universe
held its breath in
anticipation of
rescue?

But in a shadowed
garden, as he knelt
among rocks and
fallen figs crying
aloud to the heart of
heaven, they slept.
Later they wondered
why he came to
them in tears and
whispers, asking

"Could you not remain awake with me one hour?"

No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne;
no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown. – William Penn

Reflections

Come to the table and savor the sight, the wine and the bread that was broken. And all have been welcomed to come if they might, accept as their own these two tokens. The bread is His body, the wine is His blood and the One who provides them is true. He freely offers, we freely receive. To accept and believe is all we must do. Come to the table and taste of the glory and savor the sorrow, He's dying tomorrow. The hand that is breaking the bread, soon will be broken. And here at the table, sit those who have loved you, one is a traitor and one will deny. But He's lived His life for them all, and for all be crucified. – Michael Card

***The Donkey*, by GK Chesterton**

When fishes flew and forests walked,
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood,
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry,
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
Of all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient, crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hours and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

"We adore you and we bless you, Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all the churches which are in the whole world, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world." – Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday

Introduction: On the feast of Passover, Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples and offered to them the bread and wine as His Body and Blood of the New Covenant. Read the scripture from Luke and view the special Passover Seder, led by the *Jews for Jesus* organization.

The Last Supper

Luke 22:7-20

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." 9 "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. 10 He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 12 He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there." 13 They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. 14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." 17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

*Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
1 Corinthians 5:7*

Reflections

- *What is the significance of Jesus offering the bread and wine to His disciples on the Jewish feast of Passover?*
- *Our celebration of the Lord's Table in our church is a memorial of this first event. In doing so, we are remembering that Jesus gave His body and blood for us. Why is it important to have the right spiritual attitude during the celebration of Communion?*



Special Passover Seder Livestream Experience

You can view the special "*Christ in the Passover: Livestream Experience*" Passover Seder, hosted by the *Jews for Jesus* organization! (Note: This event requires pre-registration – please go to the Maundy Thursday Seder event tab on the MPC church website at www.mattpres.com to register in advance of the livestream event).

Go to the Mattituck Presbyterian Church Website (see the tab entitled "Maundy Thursday Seder Event") at 7:30pm on Maundy Thursday to listen to special Maundy Thursday music and view a video introduction to the Seder by Pastor Robert.

Good Friday

Excerpts from Psalm 22

Introduction: Psalm 22 is the great Old Testament Messianic passage on the crucifixion. Prayerfully meditating on this Psalm can draw us closer to Christ's Passion. Below you will find a special meditation on Christ's Passion with passages taken from Psalm 22, followed by special thoughts for contemplation. Please take the time to sit in quiet meditation on each verse and thought. This special devotional can be done alone or with your family.

Verses 1-2 *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? 2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest."*

Consider how alone Christ felt as the Father turned away from Him.

Verses 6-8 *"But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.*

8 "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Think of how it felt to be scorned and rejected by the very people He loved so much.

Verses 11-13 *Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. 12 Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. 13 Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me.*

Consider how alone He felt as the people abused and inflicted such terrible pain on Him.

Verses 14 -18 *"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. 15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. 17 All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. 18 They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment."*

Imagine being present at Golgotha and witnessing this scene. Dwell on the idea that He did this for you.

Tune into the special Good Friday page on the MPC church website (www.mattpres.com) to listen to Good Friday devotional music and hear a word from Pastor Robert and hear a reading from Isaiah 53.

Holy Week Saturday

Introduction: The Saturday of Holy Week is a time for meditation on how Christ, after His death on the cross, visited Hades (Sheol, “the grave”) to break the bonds and free all the righteous dead and lead them to their home in paradise. It is a time for Christians to pray in vigil while awaiting the glorious celebration of the Resurrection and to meditate on how we have all been freed from the power of the grave.

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-13

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be

“Following his death for sin, Jesus journeys to Hades, to the City of Death, and rips its gates off the hinges.” - Joe Rigney, on the Desiring God (John Piper) Website

patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit,

just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the

and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

1 Peter 3:18-20

“because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.”
- Psalm 16:10

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put

to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.”

Activity:

Many Christians celebrate an “Easter Vigil” on this day, which consists of a time where they gather, pray and read scripture as they “wait” for the celebration of Easter resurrection.

Take time today to practice an Easter Vigil of your own. Use some alone time to pray and ask God to prepare your heart to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the dead and consider what Jesus did when He freed all the souls from Hades.

Easter Sunday

Luke 24:1-12

Introduction: JESUS IS RISEN! The Resurrection of Christ is the single greatest event to us as Christians and Easter is our most important holiday. Reading the Apostles Creed on Easter reminds us of our great faith and what we hold to be true.

Jesus Has Risen

“1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man

must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.” – 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

be

crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” 8 Then they remembered his words. 9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.”

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Activities

1. [Watch the virtual Sunday Service on the MPC Website.](#)
2. [Read the Resurrection passage from Luke on this sheet.](#)
3. [Read the Apostles Creed, alone or with the others in your household. Alternatively, you can view the wonderful Apostles Creed video created by Christianity.com, which is posted on the church website under the tab entitled “The Apostles Creed.”](#)
4. [When you are finished, have a discussion on which line of the Creed is meaningful to you and why.](#)

