

Dear Pittman Park Family,

As we move into these days of Holy Week, let me express my discontent at our not being able to gather for worship in person. What an odd experience this is! Since Covid-19 appeared, the world has just felt a little off-axis to me. In my spirit, the concept of social distancing does not mix well with being human - much less being the church of Jesus Christ. God has created us to care for each other through fellowship and community, through shalom and koinonia. It is critical we follow the guidance of public health officials. However, I strongly believe God is calling us to actively and creatively resist separation from each other. You are already finding ways to do this by way of phone, mail, social media, texting, Skype, FaceTime and Zoom meetings! May God bless us through this time and fill us with Jesus' holy presence as we recall his words – "...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt. 28: 20)

So, while we are learning what it means to "shelter in place", here are a few suggestions and links I will share which I hope will assist you in observing these holy days...

- ✝ Anne Bosarge is on staff at The Chapel United Methodist Church in Brunswick. She has crafted a beautiful online resource called "Holy Week Prayers" to guide participants through the eight days of Palm Sunday through Easter. Explore by clicking here: <https://www.holyweekprayers.com/>
- ✝ Allison Lindsey is on staff at our South Georgia Conference Connectional Ministries office. She has shared a "Stations of the Cross" using scripture, reflection questions and activities to adapt this ancient practice for use in our homes. Explore by clicking here: <https://www.sgauhc.org/files/websites/www/Stations+of+the+Cross.pdf>
- ✝ Palm Sunday – Hang a green branch on your front door to celebrate this holy day and join us in worship at www.pittmanpark.org
- ✝ Holy Thursday – With those whom you are sheltering in place, share a time of footwashing. (read John 13: 1-15) Reflect on the many ways Jesus is calling us to be servants.
- ✝ Good Friday – Light a candle and reflect on Jesus' arrest and trial. (read Luke 22: 47 – 23: 25) Blow out the candle to symbolize his crucifixion and burial. (read Luke 23: 26-56)
- ✝ Observe a "media darkness" from noon Good Friday to noon Holy Saturday. Fast from television, radio, newspapers, magazines, podcasts, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter...
- ✝ Easter!! – go outside to greet the dawn / lift a prayer of thanks / shout "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" / Write in chalk on your driveway: "Christ is Risen!" / Ring every bell in your house!! (even the doorbell) / Join us in worship at www.pittmanpark.org

Blessings!
Bill Bagwell