

RESURRECTION PRAYER WALK 2021

# *Peace*

He came to earth with a promise of peace.  
He died for our peace.  
He rose again and proclaimed peace for all weary hearts.



**March 28-April 4, 2021**

Bloomington East | 2700 E Rogers Rd | Bloomington, IN 47401  
[socc.org/easter](http://socc.org/easter)

# Peace

*Eirēnē - “the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”*

The Resurrection Prayer Walk is a reflective, experiential, meditative experience centered on a unique facet of the Easter story. It is designed to be explored individually, as a family, or even with a small group of people.

In a season of such turmoil, we want you to take time to focus on the Peace of Christ this Easter season.

Please turn cellphones to silent/vibrate and use earbuds when necessary. Need to talk to someone as a result of this experience? Text *prayer* to 812-324-8644 and a member of the Sherwood Oaks staff or leadership will be in contact with you.

# 1 PREPARE YOUR HEART

What's really going on in your heart? Are you restless? Anxious? Distracted? Worried? Are you calm? Focused? Intentional?

There are literally dozens of words that you could probably use to describe your inner self right now. Spend a few moments praying about what is going on in your heart, and ask God to cover all the other emotions with His peace - His perfect, enduring, life-altering peace.

Read John 20.



(text also located at the end of this guide)

Throughout the rest of our prayer experiences, we will focus on how Jesus interacted with his Mary Magdalene, the Disciples, and Thomas. What is God revealing to you through these passages?

## 2 A TIME TO MOURN

Picture it. It's early in the morning. The sun is barely over the crest of the hill, but your heart is breaking. You can't take it anymore. You slip on your sandals, wrap your head in a scarf, and head down to where you can mourn the death of a person you loved so dearly. You get to where he's buried, your sadness overwhelming.

This is the place. The place of death. The place where life is gone. the place of heart-break and sorrow. It's time to confront that pain.

Like Mary Magdalene, we're asking you to spend a few moments on the dark side of the tomb. You don't know that the stone has been rolled away. You don't know hope is already here.

Reflect on the last year and identify something that has died - a loved one, a dream, a relationship, an opportunity. Death isn't just physical. **Take time to mourn. In front of you is a symbolic gravestone. Take a flower and place it at the foot of the grave and then move to the next station.**

# 3 WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?

When the disciples were confronted with the open, empty tomb, they had to make a choice - hope or fear. Unfortunately, their first instinct was fear.

But think about it. Is your first instinct fear sometimes? The unexplainable happens, and it's easier to worry that something bad is going to happen than to hope for something good. The disciples locked themselves away, afraid of the empty tomb, afraid of the soldiers sent to find them, afraid of a future without Jesus.

But, then, in His goodness, Jesus appears to them, and brings with them peace. And He can do the same for you. **Before you is a sandbox. Take a moment to write your fears in the sand.** Look long and hard at what you've written and remember that His promise is to replace that fear, that very thing you wrote, with His eternal hope and peace.

Wipe away what you wrote before you move on to the next station, remembering that Christ wipes your fears away when you give them to Him.

# 4

## WHEN DOUBT IS LOUD

Have you ever not been where you should have been? That's what happened to Thomas. He wasn't there when Jesus came back. He wasn't there to see with his own eyes the living, breathing Savior. And so, he doubted.

In an instant, the disciples world had gone from the black of despair to a rainbow of color. The clouds had lifted, and they could see again clearly. And what they saw, what they felt, was the promise of peace. Peace did not mean their lives would be easy. Peace did not mean they would be safe. Peace didn't mean they wouldn't mourn or be scared ever again. But His perfect peace meant that they no longer had to doubt who God was and what He wanted for their lives.

In front of you is a black cross. It looks like nothing, right? **Think of the black as the doubts that crowd the color out of your life. Now, take the scratching stick and start scratching off the black.** Every swipe of the stick is a doubt God is revealing himself through. Soon you'll be left with nothing but color!

# 5 THE RESURRECTION

This symbol, the cross, has been claimed by Jesus followers for millennia as a representation of their faith. A cross once symbolized shame, pain, and death. And now it symbolizes hope, life, and peace.

The resurrection of Christ reminds us that His perfect peace is readily available through the One who endured all to bring it to us.

**Return to Station 2 and grab the flower you placed on the tomb. Now, affix that flower to the cross in front of you.** As more and more people take part in this, the cross, nothing more than wood and nails, becomes a living, breathing testimony to God's goodness and power.

His peace is not for just a few - but for all. On a hill stood a cross. That cross held the Christ. He died. He was buried. He rose. All so that you can proclaim His promise of peace to the world.

# 6

## COMMUNION

Only you know what has been going on in your life that you are bringing into this experience. As you've walked through each station, you've encountered death, mourning, fear, and doubt.

But, that's only part of the Easter story. Communion bridges the gap to the best part - through His body and His blood you can find ultimate peace with Jesus!

There is nothing in your life - no death, no fear, no doubt, that His blood cannot cover. There is no sorrow, no sin, no anger that His body cannot overcome in your life.

**This moment is just between you and your Creator. Thank Him. Praise Him. Petition Him. Take communion.**

Remember that all of this - the birth and the death and the resurrection - was for you. If you had been the only one, He would have still gone through it all.



# 7 PEACE BE WITH YOU

So, what next? How do you take Christ's promise of peace and weave it into your mourning, your doubts, your fears? There is no one size fits all approach to peace.

Maybe it's putting a physical reminder of the cross somewhere you can see it every day.

Maybe it's a journal or space to acknowledge that your doubts and fears are real - as is Jesus' command over them.

Maybe it's getting honest with yourself and talking about what keeps you from completely trusting God with a family member, friend, or counselor.

Maybe it's sitting in silence for a few moments and allowing God to work through the quiet to replace the noise in your world with His peace.

**Before you leave the prayer walk, take a few moments to sit in peace, remembering the One who died so that you may find peace in any storm.**

## JOHN 20 (NIV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## COMMUNION SERVICE

**APRIL 1 | 7:00PM | PRAYER WALK**

Join us for a brief devotion, time of worship, and communion at the Prayer Walk. Raining? We'll move it inside the Worship Center

## GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

**APRIL 2 | 9:00AM-6:00PM | FACEBOOK**

Join us at [facebook.com/sherwoodoaks](https://facebook.com/sherwoodoaks) every hour on the hour for a brief devotion led by our staff and leadership.

## EASTER AT BLOOMINGTON EAST

**2700 E Rogers Rd, Bloomington, IN 47401**

**APRIL 3 | 5:00PM**

**APRIL 4 | 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, please RSVP for services at East at [socc.org/easter](https://socc.org/easter).

Children's programming for kids three and younger Saturday night and full children's programming (birth-5th) at the 9:30am & 11:00am services Sunday.

