

# Holy Week AT HOME



*You Belong.*  
UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

COMMUNION  
COLLECTIVE

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Since Christians can't be together in our regular gathering places this Holy Week and Easter, due to the COVID-19 outbreaks around the world, Communion Collective wanted to provide a resource that anyone could use to center our hearts and minds in ways that give us a greater sense of the hope, light, and joy that Easter and Jesus' Resurrection brings to our lives.

This is a reminder our faith community needs now more than ever. We created this simple guide for University Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi (our home church) but think it can work for many others. This guide isn't meant to be prescriptive, but rather offer some ways you can remember Holy Week and prepare for Easter in these difficult and unprecedented times. We know that many people are struggling financially, personally, and with their health, so please revise and edit this to work for your circumstances.

We hope that it will help to direct your prayer and worship this season. It includes links to ecumenical reflections from churches around Hattiesburg throughout the week and scripture readings that take us through Jesus' footsteps. Each day has scripture readings and rituals from various Christian denominations that you may choose to perform alone or with your family. Every day but Saturday offers a way to virtually worship together as well. If you are looking for child-focused Holy Week activities, there are some great ones out there! While many of the elements in this guide are family-friendly, it is mostly geared for adults and older children, and they can be done alone or over a virtual connection with others.

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## BAPTISTS AND HOLY WEEK

Before you dive in to this guide, it's important that we talk about Holy Week since it's an unfamiliar concept for many Christians. The week leading up to Easter Sunday is called Holy Week and is remembered as the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem, had the last supper with his disciples, was betrayed by Judas, and finally, crucified. We believe that remembering the events of Holy Week throughout the week gives us an opportunity to walk with Jesus to the cross and the tomb, and as such, brings us even greater joy upon the Resurrection.

At University Baptist Church, we follow the liturgical calendar and use the Narrative Lectionary to shape our worship. As such, we have always remembered Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter with worship and church gatherings. In recent years, we've also partnered with our friends at Ekklesia Hattiesburg for daily services and meals from Monday through Friday.

Why, you ask?

For many Baptists, Easter is just Easter Sunday, the joyful day where Jesus Christ overcomes death and the grave. It can be easy to leap from Palm Sunday, with its excitement surrounding Jesus' triumphal entry, straight into Easter or attempt to compress the Palms, the Passion, and the Resurrection and not allow for time to reflect on each or walk alongside Jesus throughout the week. For our church, Easter is an entire season, one that we prepare for throughout Lent and Holy Week and lasts until Pentecost. The week leading up to the day of joy and hope can be immensely powerful. If you've heard the expression, you can't have a rainbow without the rain, then you know what we mean.

By setting aside time each day during the week and walking through Jesus' last days, you don't miss any moments of the story AND are able to focus on what makes Jesus' story so important for us...the hope over death that the Resurrection on Easter Sunday gives us. We can't think of a more important time to remember and focus on that message during this time of uncertainty. We hope that you'll find this guide a helpful blessing to you this season.

In love,

*Biz Harris*  
DESIGN & DIRECTION  
COMMUNION COLLECTIVE

# **PALM SUNDAY: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM**

**READINGS: MARK 11:1-11, 14:3-9**

**JOIN UBC FOR WORSHIP:** We invite you to join UBC for worship on Palm Sunday. You can join us live in-person at 10:00am or virtually on YouTube. If you prefer to worship from home, click here to join us: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC274\\_-jjme29tld5lkuHSGO](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC274_-jjme29tld5lkuHSGO)

## **A RITUAL TO REMEMBER: PALM PROCESSION**

In addition to joining one of our Palm Sunday services, we invite you to collect some tree or bush branches (if you don't have a palm tree) . Please Video or photo your fun ways of sharing, waving, and celebrating Jesus' ride into Jerusalem and post it to your social media platform of choice. Tag us on Facebook (@UBCHattiesburg) or Instagram (@ubc\_hattiesburg)

Need Palms? Consider making them with this tutorial: <http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpalm.htm>  
Or, alternately, if you have palms consider walking around the neighborhood leaving palm fronds on friends' doorsteps.

Palm fronds can be woven into a keepsake for the rest of the year. Some traditions use ashes made from burning the previous year's palms on Ash Wednesday. While you weave, pray that Jesus comes to us all during this week.

Find a tutorial about how to weave palms here: <https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/how-to-weave-palms/>

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## **MONDAY: JESUS CLEANSING THE TEMPLE**

**DAILY READING: MARK 11:12-17**

**DURING THE DAY:** Join with UBC and our friends for a Service of Prayer and Reflection recorded and posted on the [CBF Mississippi YouTube Channel](#)

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## **TUESDAY: JESUS TEACHES AT THE TEMPLE**

**DAILY READING: LUKE 20:1-40**

**DURING THE DAY:** Join with UBC and our friends for an Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Reflection recorded and posted on the [CBF Mississippi YouTube Channel](#)

## **ABOUT THE WEEKLY REFLECTION VIDEOS INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE**

This year University Baptist Church (UBC) is joining with our friends from across the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi. We're joining Northminster Baptist Church (Jackson), Northside Baptist Church (Clinton), Olive Branch Fellowship (Olive Branch), and University Baptist Church (Starkville) to bring you a different Holy Week Service each day (M-F) at 12:00pm.

Each day a new reflection will be posted for you on the [CBF Mississippi YouTube Channel](#) and through our various social media channels.

# HOLY WEDNESDAY: JESUS ANOINTED AT BETHANY & THE BETRAYAL OF JUDAS

DAILY READING: MARK 14: 1-II, OR MATT. 26: 1-16

## RITUAL TO REMEMBER: POUR OUT A LIBATION OF OIL

In today's scripture reading, Jesus says of the woman --who is unnamed in Mark, Matthew, and Luke, but John identifies as Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus-- "Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." (Mark 14:8). Today, Let us take this time to remember the woman who anointed Jesus with her own hair and sacrificed burial oil that cost a year's wages. Jesus wanted us to remember her everywhere the good news is spread, though she is often forgotten. So, in her memory, and in our own small way to prepare for Jesus' death, pour out a libation of olive oil or perfume. While you do so, say a prayer of thanks for the woman and all the women (recognized and unrecognized) in your life who have supported you on your faith journey.

**END YOUR DAY:** Join with UBC and our friends for an Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Reflection recorded and posted on the [CBF Mississippi YouTube Channel](#).

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY: THE LAST SUPPER

DAILY READINGS: MARK 14:17-26, 32-35, 43-50 AND LUKE 22:14-23, 39-53

**BEGIN YOUR DAY:** Join with UBC and our friends for a Service of Prayer and Reflection recorded and posted on the [CBF Mississippi YouTube Channel](#).

**PREPARE FOR THE MEAL:** You may choose to bake bread to eat at the Agape meal. One of our UBC Kids, Vyvian Morris, recently made [this communion bread](#). Feel free to use this recipe or your own. You might also want to try [baking Hot Cross Buns](#), a Holy Week tradition that dates back to the 12th Century.

## END YOUR DAY WITH THIS RITUAL: AN AGAPÉ MEAL

We use this night to remember the Last Supper before Jesus' trial and crucifixion. Although Jesus celebrated Passover at that meal, ours is not a Seder. Though Jesus and his friends gathered that night as part of their Passover celebration, that tradition is not part of ours, and we do not seek to appropriate it. Instead, we remember the early Christian tradition of fellowship at the communion table modeled after the Last Supper.

### WHAT TO DO:

- Serve a simple meal including soup, a loaf of bread, and wine.
- A note for those living alone: This may still be done as you are acting in communion with our entire church and also the great cloud of witnesses that transcends time and physical place. You might also invite others to join you virtually for this meal using video conferencing software. Each will eat the meal at their own homes but be able to engage in the worship together.

### WHAT TO SAY:

As the words of the story of Jesus' last meal with his friends are read out loud for a group or silently to oneself if alone, (Matthew 26:26-29 or Luke 22:14-23:56 or ) hold up a piece of the bread. Each person will take their own piece of bread from the plate, and as it is passed around, from person to person, say, *"Eat, this is the bread of life."*

Then, as more of the story is read, and Jesus does the same, some one holds up a glass of wine. As each person drinks from their own glass, the person next to them says the words, *"The blood of Christ, for you."* or *"Drink, this is the cup of salvation."*

# MAUNDY THURSDAY: FOOT WASHING/ACTS OF SERVICE

DAILY READING: JOHN 13:1-20

## OPTION 1: RITUAL TO REMEMBER: FOOT WASHING

*This litany and ritual was adapted from the United Church of Christ.*

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Move chairs into a circle; make sure you have a basin, towels and warm water; make sure that there is at least one copy of the Litany.

### WHAT TO SAY:

- One: How do we honor and serve one another in joy, following the example of our beloved Jesus? Especially in our family relationships, how can we serve lovingly, joyfully? If you have something in your heart, say it now.
- All: *As a community/family, we will love one another and care for others.*
- One: In our challenges and triumphs,
- All: *Like Jesus, we'll offer joyful, loving service.*
- One: In our brokenness and healing,
- All: *Like Jesus, we'll offer joyful, loving service.*
- One: In our times of hurt and forgiveness,
- All: *Like Jesus, we'll offer joyful, loving service.*
- One: In our frustration and patience,
- All: *Like Jesus, we'll offer joyful, loving service.*
- One: In our gratitude and thankfulness,
- All: *Like Jesus, we'll offer joyful, loving service.*

Wash Each Others' Feet: When everyone in the family has concluded the Litany, the footwashing may begin, with humble, joyful, loving care! Each family can figure out how to proceed; perhaps everyone will pour a little water on the feet of the one being washed; perhaps one will pour water and another dry; members should freely help each other.

Pray: *Jesus, in this Holy Week you prayed that we would love one another as you have loved us. Tonight we have tried to practice what you have taught us! Let the love and joy we have known here with our families continue to bless us, and let us share that blessing with world you love and gave your life for. May the peace we feel together in this place.*

## OPTION 2- RITUAL TO REMEMBER: ACTS OF SERVICE

For a variety of reasons, not everyone will choose to take part in foot washing on Maundy Thursday. That's OK! The good news is that any act of service on this day reminds us of Jesus' love and care for others. Taking food to a neighbor, delivering needed items to a food pantry, asking forgiveness for a wrong you have done, or any other act that embodies Jesus' love for others is a way to live out the spirit of Maundy Thursday. Pray the Litany above before or as you act.



## GOOD FRIDAY: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

### READINGS: MARK 15:16-39 AND LUKE 23:26-49

#### RITUAL TO REMEMBER: TENEBRAE SERVICE (THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS)

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

You'll need 8 lit candles and a Bible to read the following passages. This service should be held in a dimly lit or dark room. The candles symbolize the events of that week from the jubilant Palm Sunday entry to Jerusalem through Jesus' burial, therefore, one candle is extinguished after each passage is read. The darkness that grows symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God.

The service concludes in darkness, because the story remains unfinished until Easter morning.

*As you read each passage, extinguish one candle.*

- The Shadow of Betrayal: Read Mark 14:10-13, 16-21
- The Shadow of the Arrest: Read Luke 22:39-48, 54
- The Shadow of Denial: Read Luke 22:54-62
- The Shadow of Accusation: Read Mark 15:1-15
- The Shadow of Mockery: Read Matthew 27:27-31
- The Shadow of Crucifixion: Read Luke 23:32-43
- The Shadow of Death: Read Mark 15:33-39
- The Shadow of Burial: Read John 19:38-42.



#### RITUAL TO REMEMBER: PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Good Friday, Christians around the world also pray the stations of the cross to seek to physically experience what Jesus experienced. Or, you can print the stations and read them here: <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/station.php>

And DON'T FORGET to join us at 12:00pm for a Service of Prayer and Reflection on the "Seven Last Words of Jesus" on the [CBF Mississippi YouTube Channel](#).

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## HOLY SATURDAY: WAITING AND WEEPING

### DAILY READING: PSALM 30

#### RITUAL TO REMEMBER:

University Baptist Church has a labyrinth on the north side of our building at 3200 Arlington Loop. **On Good Friday or Holy Saturday, you are invited to walk the labyrinth.** Please observe the CDC's guidelines for staying safe and healthy during this time, and have no more than two people walking the labyrinth or standing together at a time.

##### WHAT TO DO:

While walking the path, ask yourself this question: *What would I have done, had I been there to witness the events of Jesus' trial and crucifixion? Where would I have gone? What would I have said? With whom in the story do I identify?*

Attempt to answer these questions with brutal honesty. What do you learn about yourself? Ask God's grace for yourself that you may find a renewed courage for living in the face of life's many dangers, toils and snares.—Adapted from Eileen R. Campbell-Reed, from "Walking the Labyrinth: A Holy Week Meditation Guide," in Sacred Seasons, Lent/Eastertide 2006: "What Does It Mean to Follow This Man?"

#### RITUAL TO REMEMBER: FASTING AND PRAYER

If you do not have access to a labyrinth, you are invited to remember Holy Saturday in other ways. For instance, you might wish to pray as you make communion bread to use at Sunday's Easter Worship. Additionally, many Christians around the world spend this day resting as Jesus' Disciples would have done, observing Saturday as their Sabbath. Some churches also recommend fasting and spending the day in silent prayer as we remember the death of Christ.

# EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION!

READING: ISAIAH 42:1-9, LUKE 24:13-35

**WORSHIP WITH UBC:** University Baptist Church and many other churches across the nation will be celebrating Easter differently again this year. If you would like to join us, you can do so in-person at 6:30am for a Sunrise service or 10:00am for our traditional service that includes Communion. We'll also be posting a recorded worship service to our YouTube Channel if you prefer to worship from home. In addition to joining UBC or another church's Easter service, consider using one of the following rituals to remember and celebrate the joy of Easter and Christ's Resurrection at home.

## RITUAL TO REMEMBER: CONFETTI CELEBRATION

Easter is the greatest celebration event in the life of the church! Considering that we will all be celebrating differently again and so many people continue to face unprecedented health, financial, and social struggles it is *more important than ever* that this day *feels* different. Consider using a confetti popper before lunch while shouting "Hallelujah! He is Risen!" Any other way you can make today feel celebratory with feasting or music is strongly encouraged.

## RITUAL TO REMEMBER: FLOWERING OF THE CROSS AT UBC

It is a tradition on Easter Sunday at UBC to flower a large cross in our sanctuary. If you are able, gather real flowers or greenery from your garden and add them to the cross when you come to worship at 10:00am. Our hope is that the cross is a reminder to all of us that while before Easter Sunday the cross was a symbol of death, after Easter it reflects the hope and beauty of Jesus' Resurrection!

## RITUAL TO REMEMBER: FLOWERING OF THE CROSS AT HOME

We also wanted to provide you with a way to participate in the flowering of the cross at home. Here you will find a tutorial for making your own small cross frame that you can flower.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- (2) long scraps of wood (one longer, one shorter)
- (2) wider long scraps of chicken wire or a spool of floral wire
- Small screws & Electric screwdriver or drill OR Wood Glue
- Heavy duty leather gloves for protection
- Tin snips
- Staple gun
- Flowers
- String or ribbon to hang the cross

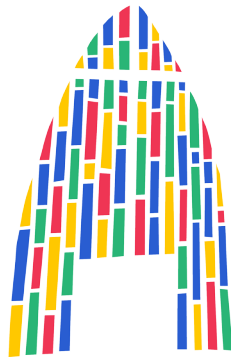
### WHAT TO DO:

- Screw or glue together your two pieces of wood to make a cross.
- Next cut your chicken wire into either two strips that you'll overlap like you did with the wood OR into a like cross with about 1.5" overlapping to secure on the back of your cross.
- Use your staplegun to secure your chicken wire to your cross.
- Now thread a ribbon through the chicken wire on the top so it's easy to hang when you're done.
- You're now ready to fill your cross with blooms.
- Gather flowers or greenery from your garden and add them to the cross.

We recommend you place your cross in your window or on your front door to remind others of the hope Easter brings.

If you need a visual tutorial, please visit this site: <https://satsumadesigns.com/blogs/satsuma-designs/easy-easter-wreath>.





## UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

in Hattiesburg, Mississippi is affiliated with both the Alliance of Baptists and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. UBC exists to live out the gospel of Jesus and be an affirming example of God's light to all. Please Visit our website to learn more.

<https://ubchm.org/>

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