



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

Holy Week and Easter at Home – Resources for formation and worship during a time of quarantine – presented by your diocesan Christian Formation Council and Diocesan Staff

Our governor has issued a stay-at-home order for the state of Maryland. In concordance with that order, we will offer livestreamed worship from our cathedral during Holy Week, and congregations may livestream from their churches provided only 10 or fewer people are present. Congregations will not be allowed to distribute palms, Easter eggs or hold events that draw people together physically and involve handing off of materials, even in a drive-up fashion.

To keep us all safe this Holy Week, we are offering formation and worship resources for you to celebrate Holy Week at Home as a supplement to participating in livestreamed worship. These are prayers and activities that can be done in the home or neighborhood (following safe outside distancing and crowding protocols). We hope that everyone can take advantage of this opportunity to ritualize our faith more deeply in our homes.

Holy Week and Easter at Home

1. **Worship at home** – Streamlined home worship you can offer your congregations or adapt.

[Palm Sunday](#)

[Maundy Thursday](#)

[Good Friday](#)

[Easter Vigil](#)

[Easter Day](#)

2. In order to prepare your home for the sacredness of Holy Week and Easter, **create a sacred space / home altar** to help you remember that God is with you on this journey. For tips on creating a sacred space at home
 - [watch this video by Hannah Graham](#), director of Christian Formation at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Glenwood and chair of our diocesan Christian Formation Council
 - [Read this article](#) by Sharon Ely Pearson on creating a home altar
 - [Create Holy Week Passports](#). These are fun for everyone. In place of the usual stickers, draw your passport stamp with markers of pens you have in your home.

Palm Sunday - Watch [livestreamed worship](#) from the Cathedral of the Incarnation or from your own congregation. Below are three activities for you to choose from.

1. Gather branches in your own yard and bless them to honor Jesus as he enters Jerusalem this day.

2. If you do not have access to an outdoor area, take a piece of green paper and fold it like a fan to represent a palm branch. In the absence of green paper, use a light colored paper and decorate with green pens, markers, or crayons.

3. Go for a walk, take sidewalk chalk and draw a palm, a Christian fish (ichthus) or write Hosanna on the sidewalk. If you find something you love, such as a rock or leaf put it on your home altar and share why it reminds you of God. You can share with family or roommates, or, especially if you live alone, share a beautiful photo on social media. Your photos might become a virtual walk for your friends. Use the hashtags #communityoflove and #palmsunday

Maunday Thursday – Watch [livestreamed worship](#) from the Cathedral of the Incarnation or from your own congregation. Below are four activities for you to choose from.

1. Clean your dining room table, mantel piece, top shelf of a bookshelf, wide windowsill, formal living room, or home altar space of fancy things in remembrance of the stripping of the altar and Jesus' approaching death.

[Read Maundy Thursday at Home](#) by Sharon Ely Pearson on Building Faith for further instructions.

2. Have [special blessing](#) over a simple meal.

3. Hold a special time of handwashing. Talk about how sacred handwashing is different from everyday handwashing and how intentional handwashing in this time of pandemic is both important and holy. This sacred handwashing is in lieu of footwashing. The traditional Maundy Thursday footwashing is an act of great service. Families discuss or individuals meditate on what act of great service you will do during the pandemic, after it, or in an ongoing fashion. How can you practice servanthood as Jesus did? Talk about an act of service you can do during or after quarantine for others or those in your household and discuss or think about the servant leadership of the Church in the the community and the world.

Good Friday – Watch [livestreamed worship](#) from the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Below are two activities for you to choose from.

1. Stations of the Cross, [woodcut images](#) and [meditations](#).

2. Watch the Godly Play Stations of the Cross video [Faces of Christ – video \(Graham\)](#)

Easter Vigil -- Watch [livestreamed worship](#) at the Cathedral of the Incarnation or your own congregation.

Easter Day – Watch [livestreamed worship](#) at the Cathedral of the Incarnation or your own congregation. Below are three activities for you to choose from.

1. [Godly Play story of Easter – watch this video created by Hannah Graham.](#)

2. Hang decorated paper Easter eggs in your windows and / or use sidewalk chalk and draw eggs around the neighborhood. These serve as a beacon of hope to children and adults out walking on Easter Day.

3. If you have a printer at home, use [these templates](#) to decorate eggs and create a paper plate wreath to hang on your door / or virtual Easter egg hunt in the home. If you don't have a printer, draw and decorate your own paper eggs with any art supplies you have in the home. Be creative!

4. Find a bell or use pots and pans to make a joyful noise at Noon in honor of the resurrection! Go outside and declare "He is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"

Record your celebration as a Boomerang or video from your phone and share on social media. Use hashtags #HappyEaster #communityoflove #HeisRisen #Alleluia and tag the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland: @episcopalmaryland on Facebook, @episcomd on Twitter and Instagram. Happy Easter!