

How to Prepare for St. Anne's Holy Week Worship in Your Home

This year St. Anne's will worship together and walk together through Holy Week to Easter from our own homes. This guide is designed to help you on the journey by providing suggestions for items you may want to use or arrangements you may want to make for each service.

Palm Sunday

- On Palm Sunday we read the gospel account of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey while the people waved palm branches. Waving palm branches was a symbol of the love and respect people had for him. We can do the same today with palms!
- Find a small branch in your yard, collect big leaves, or color your own palm to wave. A free printable palm branch template may be found here: <https://illustratedmin.s3.amazonaws.com/weekly-resources/PalmColoring.pdf>. There is another palm template in the additional "Holy Week at Home" document for kids.
- If you have been using a purple cloth on your home altar/worship space, now is the time to change it to a dark red or scarlet cloth.

Maundy Thursday

- On the Thursday before Easter Jesus shared a special meal with his friends that we call the Last Supper. He also did something totally unexpected but important for his friends, he washed their feet! This was one way he showed them what it means to love others by serving others.
- Out of respect for physical distancing, this year the clergy will not be washing feet. But, you may choose to do so at home!
- If your household would like to wash each other's feet, you will need a basin, towel, pitcher of warm water, and a chair.
- When watching the pre-recorded service, please pause the recording when the clergy invite you to wash feet and then resume the video when you are finished.
- If you don't want to wash feet, that's okay too.

Good Friday

- On Good Friday, Jesus died on the cross.
- If you have a cross in your home, you may wish to place it on a table in front of you during worship, or include it on your home altar/home worship space.

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Stations of the Cross

- This service developed in Jerusalem as a devotion to be undertaken by those wishing to walk in the footsteps of Jesus on Good Friday.
- You may choose to “walk” the stations any time on Good Friday and no supplies are needed other than the service bulletin.

Easter Vigil

- Historically, this night-long service of prayerful watching anticipated the baptisms that would come at first light and the Easter Eucharist. The service begins in darkness and consists of four parts: The Service of Light (kindling of new fire); The Service of Lessons (readings from the Hebrew Scriptures interspersed with a canticle and prayers); the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the Eucharist. Since we are unable to celebrate the Eucharist together this year, our Easter Vigil will consist of an adaptation of the first three parts of the service.
- Candle(s). It would be very special for each worshiper to have their own candle, but if you only have one (or none) in your home, that’s okay too! If you have your or your child’s baptismal candle, that would be a special candle to light on this occasion.
- You are invited to begin the service in darkness. If you so choose, darken your worship space in your home for the beginning of the service.
- You will be prompted to light your candle(s) toward the beginning of the service.
- After we renew our baptismal vows, there will be two prompts: 1) if the lights were dimmed in your home, turn them up/on; and, 2) make a joyful noise with a noisemaker! Ring a bell, shake your keys, toot a horn, anything that makes a joyful noise as we celebrate Easter!

Easter Day

- Christ is alive!
- We often adorn our worship space at Easter with an abundance of flowers. Adding an arrangement of flowers to your home worship space provides a beautiful symbol of hope and new life.
- If you have been using a dark red or scarlet cloth on your home altar/worship space, now is the time to change it to white.