



## Weekly Devotion: Prepare Your Hallelujahs from Home

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **Maundy Thursday – April 9th**

*Maundy Thursday focuses on Jesus' service and love.*

**Scripture:** John 13:1-17

**Reflection:** How can you love and serve today? At home with those you live with and through a virtual connection to someone you love but cannot be with today?

**Feet Washing... Or Handwashing:** This year, it feels like the act of washing each other's hands could be just as powerful and meaningful as washing another's feet. Jesus cleaned the disciples' feet because they were dirty, carried germs and often infections from exposure and showed his servant heart.

Prepare a pitcher of water, a bowl, and towels. Prayerfully pour water over each hand or foot (or allow a family member to do so). As you do so reflect on the grace and love of Jesus Christ poured out in your life. Dry your or each other's hands or feet with a towel. If you live alone, consider doing this while on the phone or webcam with another close friend/family who also lives alone.

**A Prayer:** O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal. Wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Good Friday – April 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Good Friday focuses Jesus' outstretched arms of both sacrifice and embrace.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:36-46

**Reflection:** How can you embrace the world today? What do you hide from? What sacrifices are you making for others right now, and can you see the sacrifices others are making for you as well? How might you 'embrace' those you love from a distance?

**Power of Art:** Here is one image of Christ on the cross; this stain glass window in a Cathedral in France. What do you feel as you encounter this image? Take time to reflect and pray. You could

also do an online search for “Art of the Crucifixion” to discover the numerous kinds and types of art inspired by the Crucifixion. Jesus outstretched arms of sacrifice led to a stronger embrace of mercy than anyone could have imagined.

**Prayer:** Eternal God, your Son cried out in anguish from the cross, and you delivered him. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. By his death and resurrection bring life where there is death: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, break cycles of oppression and feeling of chains in quarantine, that all people may rejoice in your saving deeds through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



### **Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Easter Vigil tells the story of God’s saving love, even in the waiting.*

**Scripture:** Light a candle and read John 1:1–5 and Mark 15:42-16:1

**Reflection:** How will you remember this Easter and share the story with others of how it impacted you? Has your experience of waiting and anticipation shifted the past weeks? Where and for what can you give thanks for God’s light shining in the darkness and through the waiting?

**Sit Outside and Wait:** Set a timer for 10 minutes and find a comfortable place outside to sit. Choose a phrase to focus on - “You are my Christ even in waiting” or “I will remember your love in the darkness” or your own words. Don’t talk, don’t look at others you may be near, don’t play music. Say your chosen phrase every time your mind wanders to tasks or other ideas. Breathe in and out, listen to the quiet and reflect on the wait.

**Prayer:** I/We praise and glorify you, Lord God, for Christ, our life, is risen and has conquered sin and death. He has broken the chains that bind us and freed us to live in his kingdom of light. May Christ enlighten the hearts of all who believe. May Christ transform this world that longs to see him, enlightening the hearts of all who believe, and restore all creation to its rightful place. Glory, praise, thanksgiving, and blessing to you, O God, victor over sin and death, now and forever. Amen.