

Grandview Holy Week Guide

As a church community, we are approaching Holy Week. This is a time of year when we prepare to celebrate the biggest, most audacious thing God has done for us.

At Christmas, we celebrate God literally becoming a human baby named Jesus so that he could walk through life alongside us. Throughout the year, we talk about the life of Jesus. His ministry continually shows us the good things that God wants for his children, and that even though creation is broken, God is working through us to make it well and whole again. If any of this seems foreign to you (or just plain overwhelming!), that's OK. All of this is part of a bigger conversation that works best in community and, let's face it, community is a tricky thing right now. We're asking you to spend time with us through our online services and through the resources in this packet. If you have questions or prayers requests, you can contact any of our staff through email. We're all listed on the website!

During Holy Week, we focus on 3 major events in the life of Jesus:

Palm Sunday (April 5th) This is the Sunday when we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. At this point in his ministry, Jesus had already performed a lot of miracles, so people were pretty curious to see him. His entrance into the city of Jerusalem turned into a celebration that caught the attention of the leaders in government.

You can read more about this story in John 12:12-19. You can also go to YouTube and search "Bible Project Gospel of the Kingdom" to see a video representation of how this event connects with Jesus' greater mission to save us all.

Maundy Thursday (April 9th) This is a service where we talk about the last day of Jesus' life. Throughout Jesus' ministry, he emphasized that God's Kingdom is a bit of a paradox. The strong serve the weak. The wealthy take care of the poor. Leaders guide us through their service. A key event in this story is when Jesus, the son of God, washes the dirty feet of his disciples! This service walks us up to the point of the story where Jesus is falsely accused of treason, tried by local officials, and executed on a cross.

You can read more about these events in John 13:1-15, Matthew 26: 47-68 and Matthew 27:27-56. You can also go to YouTube and search "Bible Project Gospel of Luke Ch 19-23" for a video representation of this part of the story.

Easter Sunday (April 12th) This is the turning point of the whole story. Not just the story of Holy Week, but the story of all creation! On this day we celebrate something completely impossible, but something we believe to be 100% true- Jesus rose from the dead! This part of the story can sometimes seem hard to believe, but it points to the fact that God wants to be in a real and personal relationship with us. And that God is working to make all of creation new and healthy and whole.

You can read more about this in John 20:1-18. You can also search YouTube for “Bible Project Gospel of Luke 24” for a video representation of these events.

Since we can't be physically together during these 3 very special services, we've put together a kit to help us join together as a church family and body of worshippers. Each service has a simple activity designed to help us feel more connected. These activities are NOT just for children or just for “other people.” We all miss each other, and these simple exercises are points of contact with our Grandview family!

Your kit should include:

12 tea lights

12 Easter eggs

Some stickers to fill the eggs

2 name tags

A couple of palm branches

Activities for Holy Week Services

BEFORE Palm Sunday (April 5th) During this service, we typically invite children to walk into the worship space and wave palm branches. Since we will be streaming this year's service, we are asking folks to take a few pictures or a short video of your family waving palm branches. These pictures and video clips will be used as part of our streamed Palm Sunday service. We don't just want pictures of children! We are missing EVERYONE'S faces and it would be great to “see” you during this service! Please send pictures or videos to Brett@grandviewchristian.org by the evening of April 3rd.

Maundy Thursday (April 9th) This is a service of contemplation and darkness where we light and then extinguish candles to represent events in the story. Follow the enclosed service guide and use the tealights to participate alongside us in this personal and contemplative worship service.

Easter Sunday (April 12th) There is a compelling moment in this story when Mary is speaking to the risen Jesus, but doesn't realize who he is. As she is weeping for her dearly loved friend, Jesus calls her by her name. It's at this moment that Mary understands who she's talking to- Jesus! Our names are special, even if we're not the only Aaron, Greg or Amber in the world. Our names were given to us for a unique reason and help us identify who we are.

Using the name tags in your kit, write down the names of your family members. (If you run out of name tags, you can write more than one name on each tag or use pieces of paper.) Place each name tag in a separate Easter egg. Fill any left-over Easter eggs with stickers. Now it's time for a good, old fashioned Easter egg hunt! Hide the eggs, and as you find them open them up to see what's inside. When you find the name tags, sit down as a group and discuss your unique and special name. Talk about why your name was chosen for you, if your name has a special meaning, and how you feel about your name. (Did you always like it, or did you ever wish you were named something different?)

If your family doesn't live locally, call them and talk to them about these things. If you live alone, call a friend! Maybe someone from your small group or Sunday school class!

Something else you might consider would be inviting a friend or neighbor over to participate in this activity with you. If the weather is nice enough to do this outside, it may be possible to socially distance while hunting for eggs and talking about our names.

Extra Activities As we've mention above, your name is unique to you but God has other things that he calls you, too. Things like "My Child" or "Beloved" or "Precious". Color the "God Calls Me" coloring sheet and fill in the middle space. If you need inspiration, try Psalm 139.

There are other coloring sheets for you to use if you would like.