

## At-Home Packet for Holy Week 2021

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Enclosed you will find:

### A Holy Week guide (grid sheets)

For each day from Palm/Passion Sunday to Easter, you will find:

- scripture passages from the lectionary
- key verse
- reflection prompt suitable for meditation, journaling, or discussion
- Things to P-R-A-Y: P for penitence/confession, R for request, A for “around the world” (praying for various needs), and Y for your own prayers
- A breath prayer – repeat one phrase on the inhale and the other on the exhale.
- Ideas for spiritual practices or other ways to engage that day.



**Journal Page** – for recording memories, prayers, scriptures, and thoughts

**Recipe Sheet** – containing the chicken stew we have eaten together on past Maundy Thursdays, plus two easy bread recipes both suitable for eating with the stew or as bread for communion.

**Maundy Thursday at-home guide**



**Good Friday at-home guide**

**Mark your calendar for these Holy Week opportunities:**

Palm Sunday 3/28 – recorded worship available on our website ([spcusa.org](http://spcusa.org)) and [fb.com/StockbridgePres](https://www.facebook.com/StockbridgePres)

Wednesday 3/31 –usual fellowship (7:00 for kids and 7:30 churchwide)

Maundy Thursday – worship apart using at-home materials (women’s Bible study will meet by phone at 10:10am)

Good Friday 4/2 – 7:00pm Tenebrae service on Zoom, with communion

Easter Sunday 4/4 – 11:00am in-person drive-in service in our parking lot

- Recorded version of this Easter worship service will also be available online on our website [spcusa.org](http://spcusa.org) and Facebook [fb.com/StockbridgePres](https://www.facebook.com/StockbridgePres)



Journal Page

*Use this space to jot down memories, prayers, scriptures, or other thoughts this week.*



Day	Scriptures	Verse + reflection prompt	Prayers	Breath Prayer + Practice
Sun 3/28 Palm Sunday	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11	“Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the field.” -Mark 11:8 <i>What do I need to lay down in order to meet Jesus?</i>	P: the sin of pride, thinking too much of self R: for humility. A: For the continent of Africa, for those who are hungry and need food, for the anxious. Y:	<i>Hosanna... in the highest heaven.</i>  Cut a branch or piece of greenery to remind you of Jesus. Make a donation to Joseph’s Pantry.
Mon 3/29	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11	“The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” -John 12:3  <i>What fragrant, precious gift can I give in response to God’s love?</i>	P: the sin of greed – wanting too much, often at the expense of others. R: for charity and generosity A: For Antarctica, for those who are thirsty and need water, for the impatient. Y:	<i>How precious... Is your steadfast love.</i>  Find something fragrant in your home to remind you of Jesus’ presence. Leave a bottle of hand sanitizer for a delivery worker.
Tues 3/30	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36	“The message about the cross is foolishness... but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.” - 1 Corinthians 1:18 <i>What does the cross mean to me?</i> <i>Ponder how this tool for execution is a sign of God’s saving power.</i>	P: the sin of lust – selfish wanting and uncontrolled desires. R: for self-control and right relationships. A: For the continent of Asia, for strangers who need welcome, for the depressed and despairing. Y:	<i>You called me... before I was born.</i>  Find a cross in your home, or create or draw 1. Tell someone about your faith or invite them to church.
Weds 3/31	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70:1-5 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32	“The Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.” -John 13:31  <i>How do I glorify Christ?</i> <i>How do I betray Christ?</i> <i>What is God calling me to in this season?</i>	P: the sin of envy – wanting what others have and isn’t ours. R: for gratitude and kindness. A: For the continent of Australia, for those who are naked and need clothing, for the addicted. Y:	<i>Be pleased, O God... to deliver me.</i>  List 20 things you are grateful for. Contact someone you’re grateful for and let them know. Donate items to SPC’s Coat Closet. Join our fellowship Zoom tonight!

Thurs 4/1 Maundy Thursday	<i>Exodus 12:1-14</i> <i>Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19</i> <i>1 Corinthians 11:23-26</i> <i>John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i>	“If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” -John 13:14  <i>Picture Jesus washing your feet – how would that feel? What would it mean for us to do as he did and “wash one another’s feet”?</i>	P: the sin of gluttony – taking and hoarding, and having more than we need. R: temperance and contentment A: for the continent of Europe, for those who are sick and need care, for those who grieve. Y:	<i>I love you, Lord... you hear me.</i>  Clean out a drawer or closet and donate what you don’t need. Perform an act of kindness/generosity for a stranger. Call into 10:10am women’s group!
Fri 4/2 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 Psalm 22:1-31 Hebrews 10:16-25, 4:14-16, and 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42	“He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity.” -Isaiah 53:3  <i>“What wondrous love is this, O my soul...” Find quiet time to sit at the cross today, pondering Christ’s sacrifice and victory.</i>	P: the sin of wrath – destructive and divisive anger, violent thoughts and actions R: for reconciliation, patience, and peace. A: For the continent of North America, for those who are in prison and need a visit, for the alienated and alone. Y:	Source of salvation... I receive your mercy.  <b>Join us for a Holy Week service, tonight at 7:00pm on Zoom – see email for the link!</b> Reach out to someone who is lonely or grieving.
Sat 4/3	Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 Psalm 42-43 Isaiah 55:1-13 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Romans 6:3-11 Mark 15:39–16:8	“Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to our God, who will abundantly pardon.” -Isaiah 55:7  <i>What am I longing for? What am I weeping over and ready to bury? What needs new life?</i>	<i>P: the sin of sloth; laziness, indifference, and all we’ve left undone.</i> <i>R: For persistence, diligence, &amp; purpose.</i> <i>A: For the continent of South America, for the least, last, and lost in our world, for those near to birth or death.</i> Y:	<i>My soul longs... for you, O God.</i>  Remember those who have died, and give thanks for their lives. Donate k-cups, water bottles, and snacks to SPC’s adopted hospital unit.
Sun 4/4 Easter	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18	“We are witnesses to all he did... They put him to death on a tree, but God raised him on the third day.” -Acts 10:39-40 “I have seen the Lord!” -John 20:18 <i>How and with whom can I share Easter joy?</i>	<i>P: every sinful word, thought, and deed.</i> <i>R: For a true Easter spirit... for renewal, new life, and a deep sense of hope.</i> <i>A: For the world God loves, and which Christ came to save.</i> Y:	<i>He is risen... risen indeed!</i>  <b>Join SPC for Easter worship, 11:00am drive-in service or recorded version online. Hallelujah!</b>

### **SPC Chicken Stew** (Courtesy of Linda Roberts)

2 lbs chicken breast, cut into squares  
2 cans cream of chicken soup  
1 pkg dry onion soup mix  
4 C. carrots, sliced  
1/4 C. celery, sliced

4 red skinned potatoes, unpeeled and cubed  
1/4 t salt  
1/2 t pepper  
1 C chicken broth

Place 1 can soup in crock pot and mix in carrots, potatoes and celery. Top with chicken and second can of soup. Add broth and top with onion soup mix. Add salt and pepper to top. Cook on low for 8 hours. Stir occasionally. Makes at least 4-6 servings.

### **Irish Soda Bread** (Courtesy of Jack Shedd)

15 ounces all-purpose flour (3 cups)  
1 3/4 teaspoons kosher salt (or 1t table salt)  
1 1/8 teaspoons baking soda (see note)  
18 ounces low-fat cultured buttermilk (2 1/4 cups), well shaken

Preheat to 450°F (230°C) at least 15 minutes in advance, with rack in middle position. Cover the bottom of a deep 10-inch cast iron or enameled Dutch oven with a sheet of parchment paper.

Combine flour, salt, and baking soda in a large bowl and whisk well to combine. Stir in buttermilk until dough is fully moistened. Scrape this sticky dough into prepared pan and smooth with into a rough round. Score deeply into quarters with a sharp knife or razor, cleaning the blade between each slice.

Cover and bake until well risen and golden, 45 minutes. Remove lid and continue baking until chestnut brown, with an internal temperature of 210°F, 12 to 15 minutes longer. Invert onto a wire rack, discard parchment, turn right side up, and cool until crumb has set, about 30 minutes. Store up to 24 hours in an airtight container and toast to freshen bread before serving.

### **Stir-n-Roll Biscuits** (Courtesy of Terry Holmes)

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
2/3 cup milk  
1/3 cup salad oil

(For buttermilk biscuits: reduce baking powder to 2 tsp and milk to buttermilk.)

Preheat oven to 450°. Combine dry ingredients in a bowl. Pour oil and milk into measuring cup, then pour all at once into dry mixture. Stir until mixture cleans side of bowl and forms a ball.

Turn out and knead gently just until dough looks smooth. Pat or roll ½ inch thick (between two sheets of wax paper works well). Cut dough with floured biscuit cutter or cut into squares. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.

## At-Home Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

April 1, 2021

### A Word about this Service

The word “Maundy” means commandment, referencing the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples this day: “love one another as I have loved you.” On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus’ last supper with his disciples, where he broke bread, washed the disciples’ feet, and warned of his coming betrayal and death. At the time, the disciples did not recognize the significance of this moment, but now we recognize how powerful and special this last supper was. It is our Christian tradition to celebrate this evening with the gift of worship and the sacrament of communion, just as the disciples did on that night.

We will gather tomorrow, Friday 4/2 at 7:00pm for a Holy Week service that will include communion. Tonight, as we worship separately at home, we remember that God meets us at every table, and we give thanks that we are joined together by the Spirit. This liturgy can be used at a table for 1, 2, 5, whoever is in your home. May God bless our meals. May God bless our community.

### Preparation

This service is best used as part of your evening meal. As the Passover was a holiday meal, we encourage you to make your meal special – use real china and silverware, and set a lovely table. You may want to create a centerpiece for your table, using a cross or other symbol of the faith, a Bible, candles, a small bowl of water to represent baptism, and a plate and cup representing communion.

Enclosed in this packet are recipes for the chicken stew SPC usually serves on Maundy Thursday, as well as two options for easy bread recipes. But of course you may prepare whatever meal you like. You might include a prayer in your preparation process:

*Holy God, your last meal was an ordinary meal – simple bread and juice, nothing fancy; And yet, it was holy. It was holy because all were welcomed at your table – even the one who would betray you. So today we prepare our own bread as a form of prayer. And in our kneading and mixing, in our measuring and waiting, in our recipe-card-reading and taste-testing, we remember you. As these ingredients mix, may our hearts mix with yours. And as this bread rises, may our awareness of you rise. And as this bread is shared, may your love be shared. With hope and gratitude we pray. Amen.*

## **Gathering and Blessing**

When all is prepared, gather around the table for the meal. This meal is a reminder of the promises made to us in the sacrament of communion – that all belong to God, that God’s love is stronger than death, and that one day, all will be fed. As you sit, light a candle as a reminder that those promises and set this time and space apart.

Remembering that Jesus gave thanks before breaking the bread and offering it to his friends, take a moment to bless your meal, using your family’s usual mealtime blessing (such as “God is great, God is good...”), the singing of the doxology (“Praise God from whom all blessings flow...”), or this prayer:

*Holy God, we thank you for all your gifts. For food that nourishes our bodies in these difficult days, we are grateful. For family, friends, and community who lift our spirits even in isolation, we are grateful. May our worship this evening be one small sign that we trust you to surround us, support us, and strengthen us no matter what. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

### **Listen**

As you begin the meal, read Mark 14:12-26 out loud. As you read it, pick a word, phrase, or emotion that stands out to you. Share that word, phrase, or emotion with those around you, or write it down.

### **Reflect**

During the meal, reflect on some or all of the following prompts. You can either jot your thoughts down, mull them over in your mind, or discuss them with those present.

- Reflect on past meals and moments around table. What meals have been most meaningful? What makes a meal special? What makes you feel comfortable and welcome at the table?
- What is your earliest memory of communion? What do you recall as your most memorable communion experience? Over the last year, we have abstained from communion and experienced it in new ways (in our homes via Zoom!). How has this changed, expanded, or challenged your understanding of the meal and the table?
- Jesus fed and shared a meal with his disciples, although he knew every one of them would soon betray, deny, or abandon him. Does knowing that add to the power and meaning of the meal?
- After a year of isolation, which tables do you miss most? Who do you long to share a meal with? When it is safer to gather, who do you most want to share a meal with? Imagine the details of that meal. What would that meal be like? If you are thinking of someone in particular, plan to contact that person and let them know you are thinking of them.
- Before offering this special meal to his friends, Jesus gives thanks to God for the bread and the cup. What are you thankful for? How can you practice gratitude at the table and beyond?
- Think back to a time when someone offered or prepared good food for you as a sign of love. Are there foods that remind you of certain people’s love and care? Are there foods you use to express your care for others? Why do you think Jesus’ chose a meal for his final moments with his friends? Can you think of other signs he might have used to express a similar meaning?

What is God inviting or challenging you to in this season? How is God feeding you?

### Pray

Before ending the meal, spend some time in prayer. You don't need fancy words or phrases. Just offer to God, in your own words:

- Something you are grateful for.
- A time in recent days, or over the last year, when you have experienced God's love.
- The fears and concerns you are holding during these days.
- People and places, you know need God's grace right now.
- Our church, our community, and our world.

Conclude this time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer.

### Peace

Once you have finished eating and reflecting, offer peace to one another by saying,

“The peace of God be with you.”

Whether you are worshipping with others or alone, consider taking a moment to text, call, or email someone to whom you want to offer God's peace, extending the peace beyond your table to others who need to receive God's peace and know Christ's loving presence this night.

Some materials for this at-home service are adapted, with permission, from the work of:

Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

Rev. Carol M. McDonald, Parish Associate at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN

At-Home Liturgy for Good Friday

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

April 2, 2021

**We will gather for a Holy Week (communion and Tenebrae) service at 7:00pm tonight on Zoom.**

### **A Word about this At-Home Service**

Good Friday is the dark yet holy day in our church year when we remember Jesus' crucifixion. We call it "good" because we know how the story ends – with resurrection and victory! Our solemn remembering this day always contains a hopeful look forward to Easter Sunday. The service is simple. Even when we are gathered, we do little more than an extensive reading of the story from one or more of the gospels, with time of contemplation, silence, and prayer. This service for at-home use aims to do the same – inviting us to contemplate the story of Christ's passion and to pray for the world and its suffering. As we worship separately at home, we are joined together with our siblings in the faith.

May God bless our remembrance. May God bless our community.

### **Preparation**

This service can be used at any time of day, as a personal devotion or shared among a family. Find a quiet place, free of distractions, and light a candle as a reminder that this is a time and space set apart. Invite the Spirit's presence with a simple prayer:

*Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross. Save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing him who died for us and hearing the solemn story of his suffering, we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Listen**

Choose one gospel and read its entire passion narrative. Since we are not used to reading long sections of scripture in this way, you may want to pause at natural breaks and leave silence for reflection, or even spread your reading out throughout the day. If you are with others, consider taking turns reading. You can make notes or share reflections if you wish, but it is also fitting to simply sit in silence and experience the story.

Matthew 26:31 – 27:66

Mark 14:27 – 15:47

Luke 22:31 – 23:56

John 18:1 – 19:42

If you wish to take more time and dive deeper, choose a different gospel (perhaps John if you didn't read it the first time, because it is the most different from the others) and read it and compare.

## Pray

The story of Jesus' suffering leads us to pray, especially to lift up the suffering of the world. Conclude your time of contemplation with one or more of these prayers, or your own spoken or silent prayers:

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken your Son? How can you tolerate the suffering of the One who came to save? How can it be that He who brought abundant life has been sentenced to a cruel death? Hear our lament. Stand with us in our sorrow. Sit with us in the dark. Remind us of our Savior's promise that we will see him again. Grant us the strength to get through the night in the hope of a new day. Amen.*

*(written by Jill Duffield)*

*It hurts. My body. My heart. My soul. God's gentle whispers remind me that hope will deliver me from despair and from death, new life will be known. I have seen it, I have known it, and I have lived it. But today, I yearn for hope like never before. Amen.*

*(written by Bruce Reyes-Chow)*

*Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those in misery and need.*

*In their afflictions show them your mercy,*

*and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(from the Book of Common Worship)*

*O Holy God, the hosannas have died away, the palm branches have turned brittle. Now, today, there is only this – each of us, all of us, sitting in the darkness, on this Friday which we tremble to call Good.*

*What is good about Good Friday?*

*What is good about the innocent one nailed to a cross?*

*What is good about the darkness of war that persists today?*

*What is good about our devastation of the planet?*

*... about people living in poverty?*

*... about the fog of addiction, depression, disease and despair?*

*... about a global pandemic?*

*What is good about the crushing weight of hunger, racism, scapegoating, apathy?*

*No, there is nothing good and desirable in these things.*

*Yet you, O God, are Good.*

*When suffering reigns, yours is the first heart to break.*

*When despair lurks about, we remember that you were there first,*

*peering into the abyss and crying out, incredibly: "Father, forgive them."*

*When we feel forsaken, we remember that in your last moments,*

*you cared for your beloved ones, binding them to one another as a new family.*

*When we feel overcome by guilt, we remember that you spoke grace to a thief:*

*"Today you will be with me in paradise."*

*Your love for us is just that boundless, and ever-present, and Good.*

*Thank you. What else can we say here, in the dimness, in the darkness, but thank you. Amen.*

*(written by MaryAnn McKibbin Dana, slightly edited by Betsy Turner)*

## Depart

We leave our Good Friday contemplations sobered by the reality of Jesus' suffering, without a clear resolution or happy ending. We end this time in silence, yearning for the resurrection joy to come.