

A LENTEN SERVICE FOR HOLY WEEK
“Out of the Ashes”

(Parts may be divided to include Youth or different ages of congregation. Need: palm crosses or palm strips, piece of cloth to be torn, strips of cloth or burlap, candles; hand out strips of cloth and palms with bulletin.)

Gathering
WELCOME

INVOCATION

(James Hart Brumm)

Gracious God, whose steadfast love never ceases, by you we live and to you we return.
We come through our Lenten journey from hopelessness to hope, bearing the memory of ashes to remind us that you have washed away the ashes on our souls.
Grant that our struggles through wilderness places may lead us from fear to faith:
In our weakness teach us to look to you for strength,
In our failures help us to turn to you and find forgiveness,
In our dying bring us to the gift of everlasting life.

***SONG**

“Gather Us In”

TFWS 2236

***FROM PALMS TO PASSION**

Leader: Rejoice, rejoice, you followers of Jesus, to the one who died, who is risen, and who will come again! Shout for joy. Look and see, the blessed One is coming to you.

All: Bless the Lord of heaven and earth.

Leader: He comes triumphant and victorious, yet humble and riding on a donkey.

All: Bless the Lord who dies for our sins.

Leader: The Lord will save his people, as a shepherd saves his flock.

All: Bless the Lord, rejoice and sing “Hosanna.”

Leader: During Lent we move from the wilderness with a parade of palm branches to the passion of Holy Week. As we hold our Easter vigil waiting during Jesus’ final days when he is crucified on a cross, we are reminded of the joy that awaits us on Easter morning. But we are not there yet. Now we walk the road that Jesus walked, and ask ourselves – “What wondrous love is this?”
(sheet is torn)

BLESSING THE PALMS

(Simon Taylor)

We thank you, Lord, for these palm crosses, a reminder of your wondrous love...
And like the people on that first Palm Sunday, we will sing,
“Hosanna, blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!”

HERE IS A TABLE WITH STORIES OF GOD’S LOVE

(items may be placed on the table, chalice and plate, bowl of water, candles, etc., then a candle is lit; more candles may be used, if there are more testimonies)

1) Michael Hill (Susquehanna Conference)

(a candle is lit)

SONG *What Wondrous Love Is This* **UMH 292 (v 1)**

2) Jon Little (East Ohio Conference)

(a candle is lit)

SONG *What Wondrous Love Is This* **UMH 292 (v 2)**

3) Michael Queen (West Ohio Conference)

(a candle is lit)

SONG *What Wondrous Love Is This* **UMH 292 (v 3)**

4) Albert Rush (Michigan Conference)

(a candle is lit)

SONG *What Wondrous Love Is This* **UMH 292 (v 4)**

PRAYER & PETITIONS

(Carolyn C. Brown)

(may use different readers and pause between petitions)

Leader: Hear our prayers, Lord, for the wrongs we have done; For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty... And Jesus says to us,

‘Take up your cross and follow me.’

Leader: Hear our prayers, for false judgments and uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us... And Jesus says to us,

‘Take up your cross and follow me.’

Leader: Hear our prayers for our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us. Restore us, good Lord, and let your mercy flow through us...

And Jesus says to us,

‘Take up your cross and follow me.’

Leader: We lift all our prayers to you for ways we violate your covenant with us, and the prayers we name in our hearts... And Jesus says to us,

‘Take up your cross and follow me.’

Leader: By the cross and passion of your Son, bring us with these graduates and all your saints to know the joy of his resurrection.

In the name of the Risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** *“In Unity We Lift Our Song”*

TFWS 2221

(same tune as “A Mighty Fortress”)

***BLESSING**

(lights are dimmed and candles are extinguished; during Holy Week, there is usually no benediction, no coffee or fellowship, the congregation leaves in the silence of the night)

Prayers and liturgies adapted from:

Brown, Carolyn C., Sharing the Easter Faith with Children (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005).

Burgess, Ruth, Spring: Liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2019).

Hoshaw, Maria, script for Youth on Palm Sunday (www.next-wave.org)

COSSO March 8-9, 2019
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

SATURDAY MORNING PRAYERS

For an Easter Vigil

The traditional Easter Sunrise service begins outside the church around the “first fire” of Easter day. (see BOW, p. 370 for more information on the Service of Light); you may want to divide reading parts among youth or other readers to avoid using bulletins outside. Or you may start around candles in the back of the church and follow the Christ candle into the church.

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE NEW FIRE

(a small fire is lit outside the church and everyone gathers round; words of Lenten fasting may be thrown into the fire)

Leader: On this holy night, the wounded Christ offers hope.

OPENING WORDS FOR EASTER VIGIL

Leader: Come Easter people, gather ‘round.

All: The first light of Easter has broken through.

Leader: This fire tells us that Easter has come.

All: Jesus Christ has risen, just as he said.

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Now all the prayers that we have prayed during Lent, we send to our risen Christ, in the first fire of Easter morning. Hear our prayers, O Light of God.

(Prayers written on strips of paper from Holy Week or Lenten services may be thrown into the fire.)

LIGHTING THE EASTER CANDLE

(The Christ Candle is lit from the fire; musicians may play as everyone processes into the church following the Christ candle)

Come, liberating Christ, rise to meet us!

Hear our wounded cries in the chaos of the world,

Banish the gloom of our fears, release us from our prisons,

Bring us into the light of Easter.

AN EASTER GOSPEL READING John 20:1-9

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb...

They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.

***SONG “Come Christians, Join to Sing”**

UMH 158

BLESSING

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

(Eggs and Ashes: Practical & liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week, by Ruth Burgess & Chris Polhill, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2004)

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION AND EUCHARIST

Gathering
Welcome

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”* **UMH 280**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: As Christ was lifted up upon the cross, and exposed for all the world to see,

All: God gives us courage not to abandon the truth of love.

Leader: With faith to believe that even we may be born again,

All: In the Spirit of love, we too will witness to hope in the world.

***PRAYER**

God who gathers us into the great congregation and around this table of grace, we bow before you and live for you. As we seek you and lead others to you, we pray for your holy Church, for this congregation gathered here, and for sisters and brothers in our communities and around the world. In your wisdom, we proclaim your praise. Amen.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE *Luke 4:1-13*

MESSAGE *“The Official Deal”*

Rev Randall Haase

Rev Haase received his M.Div. from MTSO. He is a mentor in the United Methodist Candidacy process and currently serves as a full-time Elder in the South Carolina Conference at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Sumter, South Carolina.

COSSO CHOIR ANTHEM *“I’ll Fly Away”*

Words & Music by Albert E. Brumley
Music Director, Lori Douglas Weaver

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION

Greeting

COSSO Director, Rev Dr Joon-Sik Park

Responsive Reading

Director: Beloved in Christ, the Church is the Body of Christ, and we are God’s holy people, called by name and guided by the Holy Spirit.

All: We are received into the Church at baptism, and called to proclaim the mighty acts of God in the name of Jesus Christ, to serve him in the Church and the world.

Director: God sent us a Savior and called the apostles to witness to his words and deeds.

Through him, the Church was formed. Now God has called you into ministry with The United Methodist Church.

All: We honor this tradition and celebrate our call to ministry, as servants of the Church, as pastors, preachers, teachers, and bearers of God’s word.

Director: In all things, God’s grace is sufficient to strengthen you, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: By the same Spirit, God has called each of us. We stand with joy to honor these graduates, and celebrate their completion of the Course of Study.

Director: May God increase in you the gifts of grace for your life and ministry.

