

Holy Week Worship and Easter Sunrise

Holy Week is the name given to the week before Easter. During this week, we have special worship services that are focused on specific events of Jesus' life the week before the first Easter.

Palm Sunday April 2nd, we will celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. On that day nearly 2000 years ago, Jesus fulfilled a prophecy about the Messiah—the Anointed One—by riding into the city on a donkey. People lined the streets and laid palm branches in his path, and shouted praises. This will be a joyful service, complete with palm branches for the celebration.

Maundy Thursday, April 6th, we gather at 7:00 PM to remember the Last Supper, where Jesus gave his disciples a way to remember him—the sacrament of Communion. This day is called *Maundy Thursday*, because “Maundy” is a word derived from the Latin *Mandatum Novum*, meaning “New Commandment.” One focus of our worship service is the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples—that *they shall love one another*.

The next day, Good Friday's service at 7:00 PM is a bit darker—literally. We will experience a *Tenebrae Service*. That is a *service of darkness*, where the events of the crucifixion are remembered. Candles will be lit, representing Jesus and the 12 disciples. Then as scripture is read, the candles will be extinguished, representing the disciples leaving Jesus. Finally, the Christ candle is snuffed, resulting in darkness.

Finally, the celebration begins! Easter Sunrise we will meet at 6:30 AM to remember the visit of the women to the tomb of Jesus, and their experience of the resurrection of Christ. As was done last year, we will come together at the cross in the parking lot circle. This will be a very brief worship service, but a great way to start Easter morning.

I hope to see you at one, or all, of these special worship services during this very special week.

--pastor tony