

Lenten Field Guide // Week 6: Holy Week

As we prepare for a Holy Week that we have not ever experienced quite like this, please make every effort to join us for virtual worship on Sunday, April 5th. This Sunday is known both as Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. There are many opportunities for you to join us as we walk through Holy Week together at Belmont.

Rev. Dr. Emilie Townes, Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School, once said “do not spend your lives being poster children of the status quo.” My prayer is that this intentionally long, thought-out, difficult Lenten journey has brought forth important insight and inspiration for you. We are only in April of 2020. There is much left of this year to be intentional about.

In a time where creative living is especially important, how is God leading you to be prophetic, inspired, and love-filled? How is God healing wounds that need to become scars? How are we resisting living only for ourselves? How is God transforming greed and selfishness in our lives into leading lives that create space for others to live? How are we becoming more accountable to our theologies? How are we becoming more accountable to the planet that we live on and are tasked with caring for? How are we leading lives of integrity during wilderness times?

Thanks be to God for the chance to examine these questions in this Lenten season.

Scripture to consider: Read the two chapters of the Passion Narrative according to Matthew 26:6- 27:66.

Journeying with Children through Lent: For children, Lent can be a time to practice our disciple skills as we get ready for Easter! Because Lent can go on and on and on from a child’s perspective, it is easier for them to commit to practicing a skill for one week rather than for six weeks. Consider this for the last week of Lent:

Praying for the world – When you see a person or situation needing God’s help, offer an on-the-run prayer. When possible, at the end of the day as a family collect those prayers into one prayer for others for that day.

Acts of Worship: There are a number of opportunities for us to gather virtually in community this Holy Week; your presence with us will be a gift! We will begin Holy Week in Belmont's sanctuary, asking Belmonters to gather branches from around their homes to wave and sing "Hosanna!" Then we will walk through Holy Week with noon pastoral lectionary reflections on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Maundy Thursday will find us gathered around tables, like the early church, eating a virtual Lovefeast together. The somberness of Good Friday's noon service will lead us through Jesus' crucifixion and keep us waiting in the tomb. We cannot have Easter unless we have had Good Friday.

On Resurrection Sunday, for early risers, we will gather at 6:00am to keep vigil as Easter morning emerges. We will light firepits and candles as we keep vigil and read ancient readings together. Then, at 10:30am, we will all celebrate Jesus' Resurrection in one service. All gatherings will be virtual. I hope you can join us for all of these events as we center ourselves on the very heart of the Gospel this Holy Week.

Acts of Devotion and Spirituality: Thanks to MaryBeth Franklyn and the wonderful Belmont Worship Committee for creating a virtual Stations of the Cross ([click this link to access it!](#)). Walk each station with intentionality, prayer, and worship. Let it guide you as you walk through Holy Week.

Acts of Justice and Resistance: What acts of justice and resistance have you gotten interested in checking out this Lent? How is the Holy Spirit leading you to make a more just world?

Acts of Mercy: What acts of mercy have you gotten interested in checking out this Lent? How is the Holy Spirit leading you to be merciful? Offer these up to God.

[Check out the Palm/Passion Sunday worship service and liturgy at this link \(posted on Monday\)!](#)