

2023 Holy Week at First Baptist Church in Ithaca

Palm Sunday Worship

Jesus' triumphant entry into
Jerusalem;
Hosanna in the Highest!

Maundy Thursday

Jesus' last meal with disciples
commemorated by a simple
supper and communion.

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross;
Silent meditation;
Tenebrae service of
Gathering Darkness.

Easter Sunday

A Worship Celebration of
Resurrection;
Easter Brunch Reception;
Easter Egg Hunt.

The Church celebrates the Easter season (also known as "Eastertide") for 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit. It culminates with the feast of Pentecost where Scripture (Acts 2:1-31) tells us that the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles.



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the Christian feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four canonical Gospels. Its name originates from the palm branches waved by the crowd to greet and honor Jesus as he entered the city.

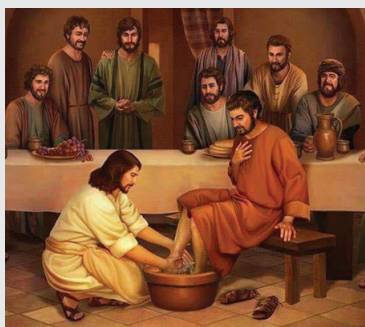


Entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (1320) by Pietro Lorenzetti: entering the city on a donkey symbolizes arrival in peace rather than as a war-waging king arriving on a horse. Its name originates from the palm branches waved by the crowd to greet and honor Jesus as he entered the city.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday, also called Holy Thursday or Sheer Thursday, is the Thursday before Easter. Christians remember it as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist before he was crucified. Maundy Thursday is also the end of Lent, the period of reflection for Christians that begins with Shrove Tuesday 40 days earlier. The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Maundy refers in Christianity to the ceremonial washing of the feet of poor persons in commemoration of Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet (John 13:4-34) re-enacted in some churches on Maundy Thursday.



Ceremonial Foot Washing

From Palms to Passion

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

Hosanna Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!



Palms distributed by children to parishioners at beginning of the Palm Sunday worship service.

Music during Worship

Hymns: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"
"What Wondrous Love is This"
Choral Anthem: "Ain't No Rock Gonna Shout for Me," Lloyd Larson
Offertory: "Roundelay," Robert Schumann

Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023

Invitation to the Last Supper

One: holy Wisdom of God, eternally offensive to our wisdom, and compassionate towards our weakness, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and entered into our struggle, taking upon you our unprotected flesh. You opened wide your arms for us upon the cross, becoming scandal for our sake, that you might sanctify even the grave to be a bed of hope to your people.

Therefore, with those who are detained without justice, abandoned or betrayed by friends, whose bodies are violated or in pain; with those who have died alone without dignity, comfort or hope; and with all the company of saints who have carried you in their wounds that they may be bodied forth with life, we praise you saying:

Many: Holy, holy, holy, vulnerable God. Heaven and earth are full of your glory; hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God; hosanna in the highest.

One: Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, from whom the cup of suffering did not pass; who, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me."

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we are proclaiming Christ's death until he comes. In the body broken and the blood poured out, we restore to memory and hope the broken and unremembered victims of tyranny and sin; and we long for the bread of tomorrow, and the wine of the age to come.

Many: Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God, brood over these bodily things, and make us one body with Christ, that we, who are baptized into his death may walk in newness of life; that what is sown in dishonor may be raised in glory, and what is sown in weakness may be raised in power. Amen



Stations of the Cross*

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-41
 36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." 39 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want." 40 Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? 41 Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

2. Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested Mark 14:43-46
 43 Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45 So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

3. Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin Luke 22:66-71
 66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. 67 They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe, 68 and if I question you, you will not answer. 69 But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." 70 All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

4. Jesus is Denied by Peter Matthew 26:69-75
 69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." 70 But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." 71 When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." 72 Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." 73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." 74 Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

5. Jesus is Judged by Pilate Mark 15:1-5, 15
 1 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2 Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." 3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

6. Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns John 19:1-3
 1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2 And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. 3 They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.



1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane



2. Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested



3. Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin



4. Jesus is Denied by Peter



5. Jesus is Judged by Pilate



6. Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns



7. Jesus Bears the Cross



8. Jesus is Helped by Simon to Carry the Cross

Continued on next page

7. Jesus Bears the Cross

John 19:6, 15-17

6 When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." 15 They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, 17 and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

8. Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

Mark 15:21

21 They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

9 Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-31

27 A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. 28 But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31 For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

10. Jesus is Crucified

Luke 23:33-34

33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

11. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Luke 23:39-43

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." 43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

12. Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciples

John 19:25-27

25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

13. Jesus Dies on the Cross

Luke 23:44-46

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

13. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Matthew 27:57-60

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth 60 and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.



9 Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

10. Jesus is Crucified



11. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief 12. Jesus Dies on the Cross



13. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

14. The Resurrection of Jesus

14. The Resurrection of Jesus

Mark 16:1-6

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

*Adapted from "Walking the Way of the Cross: Prayers and reflections on the biblical stations of the cross," by Stephen Cottrell (Author), Paula Gooder (Author), Philip North (Author), Nicholas Markell (Illustrator)

Tenebrae Service of Gathering Darkness

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

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Food Friday Tenebrae

EXTINGUISHING OF THE LIGHTS

The Shadow of Betrayal

Matthew 26:20-25

Sung Response "Stay with Me"

Berthier

Response: Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

The Shadow of Desertion

Matthew 26:31-35

Response: Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

The Shadow of Unshared Vigil

Matthew 26:36-46

Response: Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

The Shadow of Arrest

Matthew 26:47-56

Response: "Were You There"

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

The Shadow of Accusation

Mark 14:53-64

Response: "Were You There"

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

The Shadow of Sentence

Mark 15:1-20

Response: "Were You There"

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him in the tomb?

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Death

Mark 15:21-39

THE DARKNESS

The Removal of the Christ Candle

A Voice

Benediction

DEPARTURE IN SILENCE

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Candle extinguished after each reading until the sanctuary is in total darkness depicting the darkness of the crucifixion



"Make Me New"

April Nichols

Music during the Service

Hymns: "Ah, Holy Jesus"

"What Wondrous Love is This"

Choral Anthem: As darkness penetrated the sanctuary, the First Baptist choir, under the direction of Belinda Adams and accompanied by Christopher Morgan Loy, stood in the rear of the sanctuary and offered a glorious rendition of "Father, Forgive Them" by Pepper Choplin. Its beauty and power brought tears to the eyes of many that attended the service.

R E S U R R E X I

I

We sing the Glorious conquest before our
Heaven's gate- Three cosmic days completed
The morning light, our fate.
Oblation's toil and sorrows transmuted
in the tomb All hail our Glorious savior
Who beckons us to bloom.

II

Release the souls long imprisoned Bound with
Satan's chain,
all that which is now fallen will rise to life
again.
Now show Thy face in brightness bid all the
nations see,
O bring again our daylight Our day
returns with Thee.

III

O voice that speaks within us O strong and
Glorious word, O Love that seeks to lift
us above our earthly sword.
Help us to know our kinship that we in
every hour,
in all that may confront us will trust Your
hidden power.

© Christopher Morgan Loy

Easter: Alleluia - He Is Risen!



First Baptist Church in Ithaca is a nurturing and inclusive community. Guided by Jesus' Teachings, we strive for Social & Ecological Justice and embrace the Baptist tradition of Bible, Soul, Church and Religious Freedoms.



*What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8



FBC Choir Sings Handel's "Alleluia Chorus" on Easter Sunday Photo by Judy Kennison



New Creation Singers Photo by Tony Lister



Liturgical Dance by Elena Adams

Photo by Tony Lister



Please keep in your prayers:

- *The Scott family & Zetta Pederson*
- *John Gross*
- *The Evans family*
- *Biz Pia-Miller, Dan Goodman*
- *Suzanne Kilgore*
- *George Damp*
- *Kendrick Kemp*
- *Ron Drummond*
- *The Phelan family*
- *Anthony Halman & family*
- *Marge Hansel*



Artist at Work: Andrea Staffeld, assisted by Barb Fry, created this beautiful Easter tableau. Photo by Barb Fry



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When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.

WILLIE NELSON  
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The Visitor - Eastertide 2023

This special Eastertide Visitor was compiled to capture the power and images of 2023 Holy Week at FBC.

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How We Are Involved (March 2023)

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