



Lisburn Cathedral

Together at Easter

An invitation to share God's story

Welcome

Together
at Easter

Welcome to Together at Easter!

Together at Easter invites each of us to reflect on the story of Easter, and how we might share it through our everyday lives. as part of our Christian witness. We want to mark this special week in the life of the Church, as we remember Jesus last week on earth in the lead up to his crucifixion, death and resurrection.

This devotional has been created with all ages in mind, as an encouragement to all of us to take a fresh look at evangelism, exploring how Jesus and his first followers shared the good news of God's love by inviting, listening and responding creatively to others.

Each Day of Holy Week there is some material for you to read, reflect on and respond to. You'll find it under the following headings:

Read

Each day there will be a short Bible reading based on an event surrounding Holy Week

Action

Once you have read the passage and considered what God is trying to teach us through it, there will be an action point for you. Some might be personal responses, some might be a physical action or activity for you to undertake, in response to what you have read.

Prayer

There is a prayer provided to help kick off your personal prayer time.

Family Activity

We want this to be a resource for all ages, so there is an idea for ways that kids and families can help each other to reflect on and respond to the Bible reading each day.

We hope and pray that even though we can't be together in person, that this will be a fruitful Holy Week for our Church family.

If we can be of any further help, please get in touch!

Sam, Danielle & Donna

Monday: House of Prayer

Together
at Easter

Read

Luke 19:45-48

Action

Temple-goers seem not to have noticed what had happened to the holy place, as they changed money and sold animals for sacrifice. The house of prayer had become a place where they were offering a service, like the souvenir shops in a museum. The Temple, the place of prayer, degenerated into a sort of marketplace. Jesus needed to challenge the drift and reassert its holiness.

Over time, that can be true of us too. We can find ourselves drifting from God and discipleship, especially in a year when we haven't been together in our House of Prayer.

This week take some time to reflect on how this year as impacted your relationship with God. Where have you compromised? What good habits have you exchanged for not so helpful habits? Make a decision to turn back to God with your whole heart today. Ask him to cleanse you and remove from your life, things which don't glorify him.

Prayer

Creator of the universe,
you have made the world with so much beauty to reflect who you are, and you are the one who restores all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We are sorry for times when we have let holiness slip in our own lives, in our relationships and in our Church. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by sin, poverty, sickness, selfishness, war, and greed, that you would call us to repentance and to walk in newness of life with you, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Family Activity

Today we want to think about the things that can distract us from living lives for God. Ask God to show you things that might need "turned upside down" in your life - telling lies, being unkind to you brother or sister?

Do you know they used to read from old scrolls in the temple? So let's make a scroll together. Write your prayer on a small piece of paper and roll it up. If you have made an Easter Tree you can hang it up there to remind us of how God wants the best for us and to free us from sin.

Tuesday: Be Alert

Together
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Read

Luke 21

Action

“How will we know the end is near?” the disciples ask Jesus.

Well, if we had to boil down Jesus’ answer into one sentence, it might sound something like, “Things are going to get a whole lot worse before they get any better.”

Every time the media brings us news of another disaster, we may wonder, “Is this it, Lord?” Perhaps those thoughts crossed your mind as Covid19 hit our world.

Yet as disciples, we don’t need to fear the end, for we know the outcome is ultimately good and will result in joy for those who know and love the Lord.

However, we are not simply called to hide in our homes until Jesus comes again. Instead we have a commission - to make Jesus known to the ends of the earth. To offer our friends, family and neighbours the same hope and comfort that we have.

Ask God to bring to your mind someone who has been struggling, perhaps with their mental health, perhaps with fear of Covid19, perhaps with some other anxiety. How can you offer them comfort and hope? Could you give them a book to read? Direct them to a sermon podcast you think might be helpful? Or simply send a note of encouragement? Ask them how you could pray for them at this time. It just might start a conversation about Jesus.

Prayer

Father, with so many disturbing things going on in our world today, please still the struggles in my spirit and allow me to remain calm and faithful during troubling times. I know that I belong to you, and I also know that when Jesus returns, I will go to be with you. Show me Lord, someone who does not yet know you so that I can reach out and introduce Jesus.

Amen

Family Activity

Jesus tells us to “watch out” and to “be alert”. One day Jesus will come back to make things right. Is there someone who you know who doesn’t know the real meaning of Easter. Could you write them a card about Easter or give them a hot cross bun or an Easter treat? One of the best gifts we could give someone is the chance to know Jesus.

Wednesday: Anointed

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Read

Mark 14:1-11

Action

Today we read a wonderful account of the love this woman has for Jesus. She is so compelled by who he is, that she offers one of her most precious possessions to show people how worthy Jesus is to be called Lord.

Interestingly, Mark does not give her name.

In response to the extravagant love that Jesus has shown you, how could you worship him extravagantly? Is there a way for you to bless a friend, or better yet, a stranger? Could you bless the church, a charity or your local community? How can you be extravagant and yet anonymous in your worship, seeking to bring glory and honour to Jesus alone?

Prayer

Lord you are worthy! You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. You are worthy of every breath that we breathe. Thank you for your extravagant love for me, demonstrated in the cross. I withhold nothing from you this day.

Teach me to be extravagant in how I worship you.

This week, show me how I can be a true worshipper. Amen

Family Activity

Today your family activity is very simple. Have a chat as a family about your favourite worship songs and why. The stick them on and have a time of worship together. Kids - make sure the adults join in if there is actions!

Thursday: The Last Supper

Together
at Easter

Read

Luke 22:7-30

Action

“When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ he asked them.... ‘Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet’” (verses 12, 14).

In the days of dusty roads and open-toed sandals, feet often became dirty, and it was the job of the lowest servants to wash the guests’ feet. But Jesus set an example of service by doing this job for his disciples, including the ones who would betray and deny him. The Thursday of Holy Week is also known as Maundy Thursday - which means Commandment Thursday. Jesus has commanded us, his disciples to follow his example of service. Footwashing is obviously not culturally appropriate for us, so what could you do instead?

Could you help a friend or neighbour with something? Maybe you have elderly, housebound or isolating neighbours - could you offer to cut their grass, wash their car, paint their fence or walk their dog? What might be the best act of service for you to demonstrate Jesus’ love to them.

Prayer

Lord on this Maundy Thursday we are thankful that you came not to be served, but to serve, and to give your life as a ransom for us. As we reflect on your humility, make us more like you. As you stooped to wash the feet of those who would betray and deny you, we are challenged by your incredible love. Teach us to be servants to those around us. Show us, Lord, how we might wash the feet of others. Amen

Family Activity

There is so much to learn from the Last Supper. Come join us on Zoom at 6:30pm for Kidzone Last Supper as we play games and learn more about this important evening for Jesus and the disciples.

Friday: The Crucifixion

Together
at Easter

Read

Luke 23

Action

Do you ever feel like Jesus' death doesn't really tell you how much God loves you—because you're just one person out of so many? Yes, you are one believer among millions, but that doesn't make you worth any less to God! And here's why: If you were the only person on the planet, Christ still would have died for you!

Today take some time to think about how different your life and your eternity is because of Jesus, and the death he died on the cross. You may want to do this between 12pm-3pm, the time when Jesus hung on that cross. As Matt Redman writes in his song

'Mercy'

"I will kneel in the dust at the foot of the cross,
Where mercy paid for me...
May I never lose the wonder,
Oh, the wonder of Your mercy."

Simply take some time to say thank you to Jesus for his glorious salvation in your life. There are so many hymns and songs you could play to help you reflect.

We recommend 'When I survey,' or 'Mercy' by Matt Redman

Prayer

We remember today, the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love and mercy. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Thank you Lord that by your wounds we are healed. Thank you that because of your sacrifice, we are forgiven. Thank you that sin and death have been conquered. Help me to live for you. Amen

Family Activity

We have a very special prayer activity for Good Friday as we think how Jesus took our sin on the cross. Have a look on the Cathedral or Kidzone Facebook page or on "Kidzone Lisburn Cathedral" YouTube for the prayer activity .

Saturday: In the Grave

Together
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Read

Luke 23:56

Action

Imagine how the disciples, family and friends of Jesus felt the day after they had laid his body in the grave. It was all over. Everything they believed, everything they hoped for seemed to have been snatched from them in the crucifixion of Jesus.

In the silence of Holy Saturday, there were many questions, tears, and moments of despair. No doubt you will have felt times like that in your Christian walk. Often we perceive silence as God's inability to answer our prayers, or perhaps his choice not to. Yet on that day, Heaven may have been silent, but God was on the move.

Max Lucado writes this "His silence is not his absence, inactivity is never apathy. Saturdays have their purpose. They let us feel the full force of God's strength. Had God raised Jesus fifteen minutes after the death of His son, would we have appreciated the act?"

Jesus knew his Father would not leave him alone in the grave. You need to know, God will not leave you alone with your struggles. It's Saturday, but Sunday is coming!

Send a card or text with a message of hope to someone who needs it right now!

Prayer

Lord sometimes I can't see your purposes in my life. I struggle to see how I will overcome, and at times I feel hopeless. Remind me of your faithful promises.

Help me to hold on to the hope that Sunday is coming.

Show me how I can bring hope to someone else's life today. Amen

Family Activity

Today as we think about waiting and hope, let's think about those around us now who are feeling hopeless. Can you think of something you can do to bring hope to someone?

Sunday: Resurrection Day

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Read

Luke 24:1-49

Action

It's Resurrection Sunday!!!!

This is the greatest day in history, when Jesus arose from the grave. In that grave he left behind our sin and shame, so you and I can walk away in victory and freedom, with Jesus.

In rising from the grave, Jesus broke the power of death and the grave forever, and paved the way to eternal life. There is so much to celebrate!!

What better way to celebrate than by worshipping with your Church family - either in person (don't forget to book a seat) or online.

Prayer

God of glory, thank you for raising your Son Jesus Christ from the grave. In his resurrection we celebrate the fact that you have broken the chains of sin, death and hell. Today as we gather for worship, fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to new and eternal life stands open to us through our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In his glorious name we pray, Amen

Family Activity

Today is all about celebration!

Take time to celebrate and worship Jesus! Maybe take your Muddy Church resource out as you go for a walk today or over the Easter holiday!

Happy Easter everyone!

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