



**First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, Maryland**  
**Virtual Worship Meditation**  
**April 5, 2020**

***"Letting the Stones Speak"***

(Holding a stone is suggested during this meditational worship.)

**FIRST SCRIPTURE** - Luke 19:28-40

**Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

**HYMN 197** - *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

***"Throwing Stones"***

**SECOND SCRIPTURE** - Luke 19:45-48

**Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

**REFLECTION** (The congregation is invited to study the stones in their hands during the reflection.)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of justice, God of power, God of transforming grace, hear our prayer this day.

**Cleanse our souls and our minds from the clutter that day by day accumulates,  
distracting us from your will and desire.**

Cleanse our hearts from the temptations that draw us away from your kingdom values,  
and lure us into selfish ways of thinking and behaving.

**Cleanse our lives from all that prevents us from witnessing your love at work,  
and stops us from living out that work in all we do and say.**

May the example of Jesus risking all for the sake of justice, guide us,

that we too might take risks for the sake of others and overturn all that diminishes life in its fullness.

**Give us wisdom to see injustice around us, give us clarity to know how best to reveal it,  
give us motivation to see our actions through, give us compassion to reach out to those most affected,  
and give us steadfastness when confronted with recalcitrance and obstruction.**

May we hold onto the stone that was rejected, our Lord Jesus, and be his living stones.

**Amen.**

**HYMN 766** - *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*

MCKEE

***"The Cornerstone"***

**THIRD SCRIPTURE** - Luke 20:9-19

**The Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

**REFLECTION** (The congregation is invited to study the stones in their hands during the reflection.)

**HYMN 394** - *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

***"Working Stones"***

**FOURTH SCRIPTURE** - Luke 21:34-2:2

**An Exhortation to Watch**

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, cornerstone of faith, companion and friend, you knew persecution.

**As the days of Holy Week approach and the shadow of the cross looms darker over the days to come, we travel this journey with you.**

We are thankful for Luke's gospel and his Acts of the Apostles.

telling a story of faithful people dealing with the challenge of the powerful, with persecution and ridicule, with violence and hatred, and finding a way to remain true to the values of your kingdom.

While we are unlikely ever to share that experience, nevertheless may we know your presence.

**As we enter into the closing days of your sojourn in Jerusalem, may we join you and recommit ourselves to face the powers that ridicule, that cannot comprehend forgiveness, that mock grace, and limit love.**

**May we serve with you, eat with you, and relish the time we have remaining.**

May we also look forward, keeping alert for your Spirit at work, never frightened, always ready, that we would win the souls of others by living your grace, steadfastly.

**Journey with us as we journey with you, to the place of prayer, of peace. Amen.**

(Silence is kept.)

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we give thanks for your saving love made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Bless these gifts that they may bring life on earth as in heaven; in Christ's name we pray.

**Amen.**

### PASSION REFLECTION

**HYMN 228 - *Were You There***

**WERE YOU THERE**

### BENEDICTION

The liturgy is adapted from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 22.

**THOSE ASSISTING THIS MORNING - Preacher:** Lisa Rzepka; **Liturgists:** John Burroughs, Bob Foye, Craig & Maggie Leffler; **Music:** Bob Muckenfuss, Erin Jones, David Hancock.

**STAFF NEWS** - Please be reminded that Rev. Rzepka is on  $\frac{3}{4}$  time (Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday) as our pastor until July 14, 2020. Staff continue to work remotely while some of us do check the office each day for necessary administrative and maintenance functions. Please don't hesitate to email or call us, and we will get back to you within 24 hours. Thanks!

**Lisa Rzepka, Transitional Pastor**

**Bob Muckenfuss, Music Director & Organist / Miss Good, Family Ministry Director**

**[www.annapolis-presbyterian.com](http://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com) / 410.267.8705 / [office@annapolis-presbyterian.com](mailto:office@annapolis-presbyterian.com)**

**First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis / 171 Duke of Gloucester St. / Annapolis MD 21401**

**Partner with the Caibarién congregation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Cuba**

**The National Naval Memorial of the PC(USA) / An Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA)**

**Partner with Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, Czech Republic**

**Covenant Church with the Haiti Restoration Partnership**

## HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

**DEVOTION:** Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

**PRAY:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

**Lord of the Holy Procession, We meet you with praise on our lips. Keep those refrains ringing in our ears when the cheers fade and you face the gravity which this somber week holds. In the name of Jesus our Savior, Amen.**

**REFLECT:** Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." Luke 19:39-40*

**STUDY:** Study the reading and consider the background.

**Jesus' long anticipated arrival in Jerusalem is met not by an angry mob, but rather a raucous parade singing his praises. However, the master's eyes can see only certain demise – of himself, and finally, the city itself.**

**CONSIDER:** Consider this theme for the text. Everybody perceives Jesus in their own way.

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Triumphal Entry (Palm/Passion Sunday)*, Luke 19:29-44

Monday: *Journey to the Cross*, Luke 22:28-46

Tuesday: *Journey to the Cross*, Luke 22:47-71

Wednesday: *Journey to the Cross*, Luke 23:1-31

Thursday: *Last Supper (Holy Thursday)*, Luke 22:1-27

Friday: *Crucifixion (Good Friday)*, Luke 23:32-47

Saturday: *Burial of Jesus*, Luke 23:48-56

How emotional is Jesus' journey to the cross to you?

**CONNECT:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

*What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?*

*When has the movement of a crowd gotten swept away and out of hand?*

*Why do you think mob mentality has so much power of people?*

*What are you willing to give or do to follow Christ?*

*What can you do this week that pushes you beyond your comfort zone?*

**DO:** By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week. Use essential oils to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or hands every morning this week. Let the scent and feel of the oil remind you of Jesus' journey to the cross.

**BLESS:** Close your devotion with a blessing. Jesus walks a difficult journey for you. You are worth it. Amen.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOOKING AHEAD IN HOLY WEEK** - Check <https://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/sermons> for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday meditations.

**ABOUT ECO PALMS** - This year the Worship Committee purchased responsibly harvested Eco-Palm branches. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting, protecting the local ecosystem.

**SPECIAL OFFERING** - Typically on Palm Sunday we would collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering during worship. This year, to give to the important work of disaster relief the PC(USA), please give online (<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/>). Thank you!



**CONGREGATIONAL EMAIL** - Never has it been more important to be connected via email. Sign-up online to receive the pastor's message at [www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/congregational-email](http://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/congregational-email).



**IN RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND'S STAY-AT-HOME ORDER** - Eco-Palms will not be distributed and instead displayed on the church front steps. Easter plants will decorate the Shaw Chapel for the virtual Easter Service and after, also placed on the exterior front church steps as a witness to the Resurrection. If you have already donated a plant, the church will be in contact about a refund. This Easter season has been remarkable in so many ways. Although we will miss the opportunity to worship together, we look forward to the time when being together is safe again for all of us.

**THE APRIL NEWSLETTER** - is now online. Request a hard copy from the church office or view online at <https://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/library/public/documents/aboutus/2020-Newsletter/April-2020-Internet-News.pdf>.

**MEMBER DIRECTORY** - For an electronic PDF, email [office@annapolis-presbyterian.com](mailto:office@annapolis-presbyterian.com).

## (ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D)

**FIND FELLOWSHIP, FOLLOW FIRST!** When Jesus said, "Follow Me," doubtful Facebook was in mind! But right now, Facebook can allow us to remain connected. Spearheaded by **Mary Marie Quigley**, the church Facebook page now also has a Facebook Group, which is more interactive. To join the group, follow these simple steps:

1. Sign-in to Facebook (or new users "create an account")
2. Search "First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis GROUP." Go to [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1100186226989067/?source\\_id=173542819362386](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1100186226989067/?source_id=173542819362386).
3. Once on the "group" page, click "Follow."
4. Check-in at your convenience. See what members are posting. Chime in yourself! Let us use our Facebook Group as another way to uplift each other until we can be "face to face" again. Share activities to keep occupied. Recommend a book. Share a photo, a prayer, or meditation. Write something funny! Send a video that others might enjoy.

The Group can be a place for fellowship, support, and encouragement. Want to connect with your church friends and family? Find fellowship, follow First... on Facebook! Questions to [marymariequig@icloud.com](mailto:marymariequig@icloud.com).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events are held remotely.

Date	Church	Community
<b>Sun 4/5</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30 Fellowship of the Bean (ZOOM) 5:00 Youth Fellowship (GoToMeeting)	
<b>Mon 4/6</b>	7:00 Mission (ZOOM)	
<b>Tues 4/7</b>	12:00 Virtual Bulletin Deadline 2:00 Bible Study (ZOOM) 7:00 PNC (ZOOM) 7:00 Session (ZOOM)	
<b>Wed 4/8</b>	12:00 Staff (ZOOM) 4:00 Bible Study (ZOOM)	
<b>Thurs 4/9</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	
<b>Fri 4/10</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
<b>Sat 4/11</b>		
<b>Sun 4/12</b>	<b>EASTER</b> 5:00 Youth Fellowship (ZOOM)	



**FPC MISSION STATEMENT: WE ARE CALLED TO DO JUSTICE,  
LOVE KINDNESS AND WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD. Micah 6:8**