



GYMPIE SALVOS

**A Hope that
shines brightly!**

EVEN IN HARD TIMES

MAUNDY THURSDAY PRAYER STATIONS

01 APRIL 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your willingness to experience Christ in a new way this Easter through prayer.

We are disappointed that our plans to retreat together have needed some last minute alterations. However, we are certain that you will still have a meaningful time engaging with these resources. Even though our plans may change, it is important to remember that our God does not. God still reigns victorious even in the midst of great challenge and change. This is the God we seek to encounter through prayer.

We pray that as you spend time with our heavenly Father you will take your cares and burdens to Him and receive the freedom and peace that can only come from an encounter with the Divine.

While we cannot join together physically on this Maundy Thursday, we can still meet together in unity and in Spirit. To do this we are hoping you will still be able to join with us and begin the journey through this workbook on Thursday at 09:30am. Of course if you are unable to complete it at this time you are free to complete it at anytime.



You will find enclosed in this pack the following items (per person):

- A retreat guide (that's this book);
- An artificial flower;
- A covid-safe communion portion; **Graciously donated Gympie Church of Christ;
- and a Labyrinth (more information in a few pages time).

Before you begin you will also need:

- Your Bible;
- A notebook and pen;
- A silver coin (any value will be suitable);
- and a perfume/deodorant/spices, simply something that has a pleasant aroma to you.

Before you begin, we suggest that you find a comfortable, quiet space to sit and place your belongings, turn your phone on silent (if possible), take a few deep breathes and pray that God will keep you focused and reveal himself in a new way this Easter.

It would also be a great encouragement to us if you were able to take a quick photo of yourself and your retreat resources and send this to Lt. Dee (contact details in the bag) so we can share with everyone who helped make this resource a reality.

Be assured of our prayers for you as you engage with this retreat, we look forward to hearing from each of you how God has spoken to you this Easter and how He reveals to us Jesus, our hope in the darkest places.

Sincerely,
Dee, Gail and Zak

STATION ONE

PALM SUNDAY JESUS' PARADE

JOHN 12:12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

REFLECTION

Here we discover Jesus entering on the back of a colt. The people came to worship him and shout their praises to the King. Then they threw their cloaks on the ground before him and tore branches down from the nearby palm trees in quite a display of excitement and reverence.

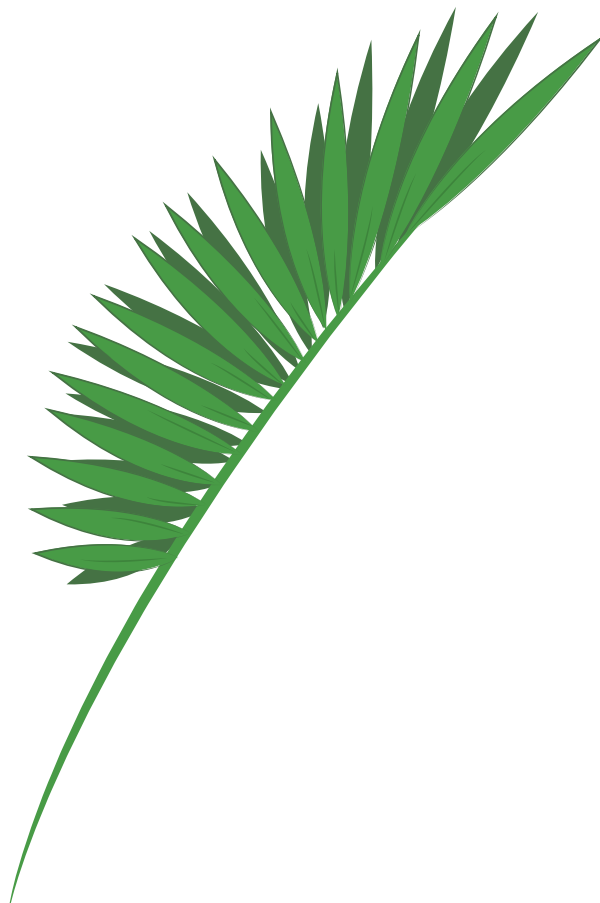
Have you ever been so excited to see someone that you would react in such a way?



A C T I V I T Y

The Jews gathered within the city of Jerusalem awaiting the Passover festival and were filled with hope that this man Jesus would change things for them, to make their life better... unfortunately by tomorrow, they would have lost their faith in him. Even those who had lived and loved alongside him for the past 3 years.

- Have a look at the Palm Leaf below;
- As you look at your Palm leaf, consider all of the things you have to praise God for today;
- Take a moment to write a few of these praise points around the palm leaf;
- As you “lay down” your palm leaf before Jesus, lift up to God with thanksgiving in your heart the things for which you are thankful.



STATION
TWO

PRAYING THE
LABYRINTH



PSALM 32

Blessed is the one, whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

A C T I V I T Y

Praying the Labyrinth is an ancient form of Prayer that can at first glance be easily confused with a maze. The two are very different, in fact they are opposites. In a maze the goal is to find the right path to get to the centre and then out again. Along the way there are multiple dead ends and confusing twists and turns. A labyrinth has just one path that leads to the centre and one that leads you out. There is no need to worry about getting lost or making a wrong turn during your travels.

Prayer labyrinths have been used for centuries to help people focus as they pray and move. Read through the scripture slowly, can you identify where you are in this scripture? Are you rejoicing that the Lord is your hiding place? Or perhaps you are feeling weak, with your strength sapped. **Using the instructions on the Labyrinth handouts, take a few moments to slow down and experience God in your life.**

Using Labyrinths in your quiet time can be quite a new and unusual experience, please feel free to keep your labyrinth and use it with other scriptures try to include this spiritual discipline in your devotions every few days for the next few weeks. Take note each time of your experiences and notice the differences in your awareness of God's presence in your life.

STATION THREE

EXTRAVEGENT LOVE

MATTHEW 26:6-13

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

REFLECTION

There are over 600 references in the Bible to oils, incense and ointments. One use for these oils was anointing which became a symbolic of blessing, protection and empowerment. This comes from the Shepherds who would pour oil over the sheep's head to make their wool slippery, protecting them from the insects and lice that would attempt to enter through the ear resulting in illness and death.



A C T I V I T Y

When the unnamed woman, broke into the party at Simon's house, she was filled with love and adoration for her saviour Jesus. Perhaps she was in tune on a spiritual level that she may run out of time with Jesus and so the pouring of the expensive perfume over his head, was not a rebellious act of waste but a symbol of hope over whom she loved. Pouring on Jesus blessing, protection and empowerment for the days to come.

1. Take a moment to consider what was going through the minds of those who were present for this moment in time. Simon, The party guests, Jesus and the woman herself;
2. Open your perfume/ Spices and take a deep breath in. Imagine the pleasant aroma that would have filled the room that evening;
3. Perhaps you would like to say a blessing over yourself or a family member.

Some Example Blessings:

- May you and your family be blessed as you celebrate the true meaning of Easter, from today, through the reflections of Good Friday, to the Joy of Easter Sunday and the promises of Eternal life;
- May the renewal of life at Easter bring new blessings of love, hope, peace, good health and happiness to you and your loved ones;
- May Christ's glory and presence bring peace and happiness to you and those you love most;
- May this Easter bring to you serene and blessed moments for you and your family;
- May the lord bless you and keep you, may the lord's face shine upon you and bring you peace.

STATION FOUR

FEET WASHING

JOHN 13:2-17

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. 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. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.



ACTIVITY

- Head to your Bathroom/ Kitchen sink for this activity;
- You are invited to ceremoniously wash the hands (or feet) of yourself or your family member;
- While you wash, you may consider praying for your/their cleansing;
- Carefully dry your hands and/or feet before returning to your retreat space;



**STATION
FIVE**

**THE SLEEPING
DISCIPLES**



LUKE 22:39-46

And He came out and went, as was His habit, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. Now when He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you do not come into temptation." And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. When He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, and He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you do not come into temptation."

REFLECTION

Being aware that soon soldiers would come to arrest him, and he would be sentenced to death, he went to the Garden called Gethsemane with his friends to pray.

Jesus had asked his friends to keep watch while he prayed that God would help him. But his friends were tired, and they fell asleep. In the Dark and quietness of the night, Jesus felt very alone.

A C T I V I T Y

After spending several years living and ministering alongside his twelve closest friends, in his most desperate time of need so far, his friends just couldn't pull through for him.

Take a few moments to step outside by yourself or holding one of the flowers provided, consider what that moment could have felt like to Jesus.

What would Jesus have been seeing, smelling, tasting, feeling and hearing in the garden that night?

Journal these thoughts below and consider them prior to our Good Friday meeting.

(Adapted from <http://spiritualchild.co.uk/goodfridaystations.html>)

STATION SIX

JESUS IS BETRAYED

MARK 14 : 43 - 46

Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. The chief priests, the teachers of religious law and the community elders had sent them. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard."

As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. "Teacher!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

REFLECTION

Jesus is betrayed by a friend, one of his own followers. Judas had been with Jesus as one of the twelve for three years; twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

How could he do it?

How could he betray his own teacher?

Judas was paid 30 silver coins for his lack of loyalty in handing Jesus over to the authorities.



A C T I V I T Y

Judas put his own frustrations, greed and selfishness before his friendships.

- Take the silver coin and hold it in your hand;
- As you hold the coin think about your own relationships with family and friends;
 - Are you loyal?
 - Are you the trustworthy type?
 - Or are you easily frustrated by people, just like Judas?
- Lift up to God those times when you have been anything other than a good friend/ relative;
- In a short prayer, ask for forgiveness for any times that you have let people down, or betrayed their trust and friendship;
- Take time to think about the people who have betrayed you... ask God for the strength to forgive them.

(Adapted from Experience Easter With Young People - Journey with Jesus Prayer Stations
Resource: <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1350301399.pdf>)

F I N A L R E M A R K S

We pray that as you have journeyed through this material you may have seen, smelt and tasted just a little bit of what Jesus would have experienced in his final week before His death. Let us not forget that the story doesn't finish here what comes next is the death of an innocent man and the ultimate victory of God over the sin, pain and suffering of the world. Have Hope, because despite the journey so far, Sunday is coming. He is risen!!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

JOIN US FOR ALL AGES WORSHIP

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

09:30 AM

42 STUMM ROAD, SOUTHSIDE