

Good morning, dear friends in Christ!

I ask you please to pray for the families of the people killed in last night's bus collision near Orland. These young people from L.A. were on their way to visit HSU when a tractor-trailer came over the center median and hit the bus. At least eight were killed. It is a terrible tragedy, and we ask God to bring them comfort in what must be their unspeakable grief, as well as to our local HSU family, who were preparing to receive them.

By clicking on this link, you'll be able to view the Godly Play lesson, "The Synagogue and the Upper Room," so you all can see what will be offered in the Godly Play class for this Sunday, Palm Sunday, also known as the Sunday of the Passion.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2#search/hmwinfrey%40humboldt1.com/145063031779e5d3?compose=145520fb90f2b067&projector=1>

There is an explanation of the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist that is especially moving. I'm sure that if you have a few minutes to view it, you will be as grateful as I am for the grant assistance we received from the Hansen Fund and the McLean Foundation, and the personal contributions and commitment of our Godly Play teachers, Helen and Erin. The way the components are manipulated brought tears to my eyes. Please share with family and friends what a wonderful resource for children's faith development we have in the Godly Play program!

Tonight at 6:00 p.m. is the last Stations of the Cross, led by Sandy. This one is "Shadows of the Cross." I recommend this experience as a wonderful way to begin Holy Week.

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion covers the last several days of Jesus' life. We start by waving palms and saying "Hosanna!" to experience what happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time, and we continue with the Passion Gospel, read by all of us together, concluding with Jesus' crucifixion. There is no sermon this Sunday, as we let the words of Matthew the evangelist be our preached word. We then share prayers and the Eucharist, and feel ourselves pointed down the road to Holy Week, where we will look together at those last moments of Jesus' earthly life. We will gather this Sunday in the parish hall, a few minutes before 11:00 a.m., to begin with the Liturgy of the Palms and process into the nave together as we sing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor."

Here are Sunday's hymns:

Processional: All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Sequence: My Song is Love Unknown

Offertory: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (ecumenical tune)

Communion: Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Recessional: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Maundy Thursday, we will meet at 7:00 p.m. for Footwashing (for all who want to participate) and the Eucharist. The texts center on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, and we will gather around the altar for Communion. At the conclusion of the service, we will strip the altar and chancel area so that there might be nothing decorative or celebratory for Good Friday.

Good Friday, at 7:00 p.m., we will pray the Solemn Collects and meditate on Jesus' cross. Sandy will provide a driftwood cross as a tangible representation of the cross of Jesus. This is an especially moving service. It starts and ends in silence.

If you would like to attend a Tenebrae service (Service of Darkness), Christ Church in Eureka is offering one at 7:00 on Wednesday. They will also offer Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19.

There will be an Easter e-mail next week, but for now, here are a few announcements.

1. Please bring your bells to ring in celebration! There will be much vocal and instrumental music, in addition.
2. We will share a potluck after the service. Please bring a favorite dish to share.
3. As is our tradition, we will experience the joy of the children during the Easter egg hunt right after the service. We could use more plastic eggs filled with candy, stickers, or loose change, if you are able to help. The older kids will hide them immediately after the service. Also, we will ask the kids to find the banner we made at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, as we begin to walk together through the church's holiest week. May God keep you all close throughout these days.

Lenten Blessings, and much Love in Christ,

Jeri+

P.S. -- Be watching for more info about last Sunday's Mutual Ministry Review with Canon Britt, which was so inspiring, and which gave us some great ideas for the future. The Holy Spirit was surely in our midst, and we look forward to this next phase in our congregational life!