



Mar. 27, 2024

4 Ways to Reflect During Holy Week

Taking the time to pause as we celebrate the day that changed everything.

Holy Week is a significant time of remembrance of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The week begins on Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and ends on Easter Sunday, celebrating His resurrection. Holy Week is a time of Spiritual reflection as we reflect on what Jesus' life, death, and resurrection means to us personally. It is also a time to focus on the teachings of Jesus and strive to live a life that reflects His teachings. Here are four ways you can reflect as you pause and enter this significant week:

1. Reflect on Palm Sunday

In ancient times, palm branches were a symbol of victory and triumph. They were often used to celebrate military victories or to welcome royalty. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey in John 12, the crowds saw Him as a king, and they welcomed Him with palm branches as a symbol of His triumphal entry into the city.

As we reflect on Palm Sunday, we can consider the way we welcome Jesus into our own lives. Do we welcome Him as King, or do we sometimes push Him aside in favor of other things? Are we willing to follow Jesus wherever He leads us, or only when it is comfortable or convenient?

2. Reflect on Good Friday

One of the most significant events of Holy Week is the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. This event serves as a reminder of the suffering that Jesus endured for our salvation. Attending a [Good Friday service](#) can be a great way to take time to remember the sacrifice Jesus made and His great love for us.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He prayed for His persecutors, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."* (Luke 23:34) We can use Holy Week as a time to make peace where there is strife, seek to love others like Jesus loves us, and also reflect on the forgiveness He offers to us.

3. Reflect on Saturday

We attend Palm Sunday services, Good Friday services, and even Easter services, but we don't often stop to consider the significance of that silent Saturday. Saturday is that middle day when God occupied a grave in a garden outside of Jerusalem. Saturday is a day to reflect on the in-between moments of our own lives. It's a day to sit, to wait, to hope, even when we're unsure of what tomorrow will bring.

We can look back and know now that Easter comes on Sunday, but Jesus' followers didn't know that back then. When we feel hopeless, lost, confused, or grieving, we can remember that Jesus' followers know exactly how that feels. Saturday is about the hard and uncertain days that God still calls holy.

4. Reflect on Easter

Holy Week culminates in the celebration of Easter, which commemorates Jesus' resurrection and the triumph of life over death—a day that changed everything. It is a time to celebrate the hope and joy that comes from knowing that death is not the end and that there is life beyond our earthly existence.

Easter is also a time to celebrate the new life and resurrection power that's available to all of us and all of our circumstances. Jesus can turn any impossible situation around, and we can trust that when all seems dead and lost, God is always writing a redemption story.

Link to Maundy Thursday readings: <https://youtu.be/C8y9CR0WCok?si=r3YOvVWhgbZIQIL>

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take it; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,’ he said to them. ‘Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” (Mark 14:22-26).

Lenten Liturgy Readers

Mar. 29 – Bob & Nancy G.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study

Bible Study will commence on Tuesday, April 16 at 11:00 AM. After much discussion and deliberation, we will be studying Season 3 of The Chosen. This has been a most popular study for the last 2 years and we are very excited to be continuing with this stellar series. If you have not attended one of The Chosen studies, do not worry. Each episode stands on its own and provides much insight into the life of Jesus. Season 3 begins around the time of The Sermon on the Mount.





How do all of those egg cartons that Graceview collects get to the St. James Food Basket?? Worry no longer! Our own Nancy Mc. picks them up and transports them personally to the Food Basket so that much needed eggs have a safe way to be transported to the homes that are in need. Thank you, Nancy for caring and for helping those who need a helping hand and thank you Graceview for supplying all those egg cartons.

Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday, Mar. 24. We did not livestream the meeting. If you would like the 2023 annual report, the agenda, and the minutes from the meeting (once they are available), please contact the church office, and we will do what we can to get these to you.

From West Presbytery

Dr. Alan Wolfelt will be conducting a seminar on grief and loss at Tyndale College on May 7-8th, which may be of interest to you. Please see the details below.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SINGLE DAY IN-PERSON CONFERENCE RATES

*MAY 7, 2024

7 pm to 9 pm

\$40 with early registration (before March 30, 2024)

\$50 after March 30, 2024

*MAY 8, 2024

9 am to 4 pm

\$175 with early registration (before March 30, 2024)

\$200 after March 30, 2024

FULL CONFERENCE IN-PERSON RATES

MAY 7 & 8, 2024

\$200 with early registration (before March 30, 2024)

\$225 after March 30, 2024

Price includes coffee/snack breaks & light luncheon

In-person registration closes on April 29, 2024

ONLINE CONFERENCE RATES

\$175 Full Conference

\$150 Student & Alumni
Online registration closes on May 5, 2024
VENUE: Tyndale University | 3377 Bayview Ave. Toronto, ON

REGISTRATION: EMBRACE-HOPE.CA

Outreach – Loonies for Lent

Throughout history, people have given each other eggs at spring festivals to celebrate the new season. It is thought that this ancient custom became part of Easter celebrations. In medieval times, eating eggs was forbidden during Lent. On Easter Sunday, tucking into an egg was a real treat. This year, Outreach is asking you to set aside loonies and toonies or other monetary donations so that we can send a large donation to the St James Food Basket for the purchase of eggs for their client families. As we continue to enjoy eggs in our daily lives, may we remember the hundreds of people who turn to this organization for their weekly nourishment needs. For them, eggs can be a luxury that they cannot often afford to buy. Let us remember the miracle of Easter and our risen lord. Let us provide funds to buy eggs that represent new life and rebirth and help us to share in Christ's ministry. Outreach is asking our members to send monetary donations to the church (loonies/toonies in containers, cash, cheques, or e-transfers) to support this initiative. Please mark your envelopes for "Loonies for Lent, Outreach" and include your name and envelope number. We would appreciate receiving your contributions by March 31st.

A Fall/Winter devotional update:

These Days (January/February/March) has finally arrived! Better late than never.

There is also a **new** edition of **Our Daily Bread (March/April/May)**.

These booklets are available in the devotional box on the church porch and on the table in the church vestibule.



Coffee/Tea Sign-Up: Now is the time for your teams, committees, friends to sign up for coffee/tea duty after worship service on Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen in the basement. Many thanks to all who have signed up and served.
Mar. 31 – Caroline & Godfrey
April 7- Outreach
April 14 – Outreach
April 21 – Outreach
April 28 – Outreach
May 12 – Susan & Margaret

St. James Food Basket

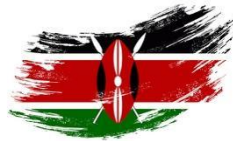
St. James Food Basket is in need of **egg cartons only**. They currently have a good stockpile of reusable bags and have **run out of storage space**. Thank you for your help.

Easter Flower Cross

We would like to continue with the tradition of the Easter Flower Cross. It would be lovely if everyone could remember to bring a fresh flower on Easter Sunday to add to the cross. Let's make this one as glorious as last year's.



SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 13th, 2024



Graceview's Mission Team, with the help of our Kenyan community invites you to a Kenyan themed luncheon at 1:00 p.m. Bring your appetite! We will serve some familiar food as well as some traditional Kenyan dishes. There will be a freewill offering in support of our projects in Kenya, Malawi and Nunavik. Everyone welcome! Bring family and friends.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

- * Pray for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Turkey, Syria, Malawi, and the Sudan. Pray for all countries who are in turmoil. Pray for those who are affected by hate crimes here in our own city. Pray that all can get along and live in peace.
- * Please keep in your prayers the following: Don Ryan's Family, Jean Fox's family member, Ryan, Halyna's son, Roman, Irene Cherniak, Shannon Jarvis, Wayne Jarvis and the Jarvis family, Christine and Brad Turcotte, Deb Thomas, and Frank and Janet Ottewell, Olive Stanton, Mark McKennell, Charlotte Prentice and Margaret M's brother, Simon. Please keep these folks, and indeed everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.



A Trampled Rose

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2).

Just over two years ago, while in church one Sunday morning, I was introduced to the song ***Above All*** written by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche. I cried when we sang the chorus. In fact, for years, I could not sing the song without being deeply moved. I still can't.

*Crucified laid behind a stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me.
Above all!*

Just to imagine Christ, my comforter and best friend, crucified, rejected, and alone touched me deeply. I myself was going through a time of rejection and felt very alone, so the words of the song touched me deeply – realizing that Christ must have had some of the same feelings.

The sentence, “Like a rose, trampled on the ground,” gave me such a clear word picture of what Jesus went through for us.

One of the names of Jesus is “Rose of Sharon.”

One week, my husband and I spoke at a ***Day of Prayer*** gathering. We sang the song again, and the Lord gave me a new insight. When a rose is crushed or trampled, it offers a very sweet fragrance. Jesus is a sweet-smelling fragrance. The Apostle Paul tells us that we are a sweet-smelling fragrance to those who believe. I wondered what kind of fragrance we, as Christians, offer when we have been rejected and feel alone – when we have been crushed and trampled on. Mine is not always sweet. How about you?

Lord Jesus, thank You! Thank You that although You are above all powers and kings, nature and all created things, You were trampled to the ground – for us. Yet, being crushed, You were like a sweet-smelling rose. You did it all for us. We ask that today and every day, when we feel crushed and rejected, a fragrance of sweet-smelling rose would flow from our spirit so people would be drawn to You. Amen

by Katherine Kehler

Here is a recording of “Above All” for your listening pleasure: https://youtu.be/5_cxf5ISeg?si=Rv6BuJhrEQIA1bnM



UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- * Wednesday, Mar. 27 @ 12 noon – Lenten Lunch #3
- * Friday, Mar. 29 @ 9:30 AM – Hot Cross Buns and coffee in the basement prior to the Good Friday Service
- * Monday, Apr. 8 @ 1:30 PM – Music and Worship
- * Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:30 PM – Mission Team
- * Tuesday, April 9 @ 11:00 AM – Elaine’s Craft Club
- * Saturday, April 13 @ 1:00 PM – Kenyan-themed luncheon
- * Monday, April 15 @ 7:00 PM – Outreach Meeting

* Tuesday, April 16 – June 4 @ 11:00 AM – Bible Study – “The Chosen” season 3

*Our services are now live-streamed. Go to the church’s website (www.graceview.ca) to click the link for the most recent worship services on YouTube.

* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out, and be sure to “follow.”

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
Mar. 31	Pastor Eric	Lynne Bishop	Nancy McPherson
Apr. 7	Errol Baldeo	Anna Cherniak	Lynne Bishop
Apr. 14	Kathy Twynam	Nancy Green	Bob Twynam
Apr. 21	Mission. Team	Mission Team	Mission Team
Apr. 28	Susan Chopp	Harry Learoyd	Pastor Eric



GIGGLE FOR THE WEEK

The fact that there’s a Highway to Hell and only a stairway to Heaven says a LOT about anticipated traffic numbers.

Thank you, Carol Thomas,



Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line, and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan choppertini@hotmail.com

Contact information for Pastor Eric Lee: 778-791-1741; leefyeric@gmail.com

NB: If the phone number for Pastor Eric does not connect you immediately (technical issues?), call the church (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

Email for Iris: ericirishk@gmail.com

* Message from **Pastor Eric**: “FYI, the Graceview website page below has been revamped so as to keep people updated on our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview”. <https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

March Calendar



MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Lenten Lunch 12:00 noon	Choir Practice 7:00 PM	Toronto Baroque Players Concert 7:00 PM	World Day of Prayer 10:30 AM Christ the King
					1	2
Holy Communion 10:30 AM	*Sing Etobicoke 9:30- Fellowship	Walking Group 11:00		Choir Practice 7:00 PM		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	*Sing Etobicoke 9:30 Graceview * Mission Team 6:30	*Walking Group 11:00 *Elaine's Craft Club 11:00	Lenten Lunch 12:00 noon	Choir Practice 7:00 PM		Mezzopiano Concert 7:00PM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
St. Patrick's Day	*Sing Etobicoke 9:30- NPCC	*Walking Group 11:00 *Session - 6:30 PM		Choir Practice 7:00 PM		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Annual General Meeting		Walking Group 11:00	Lenten Lunch 12:00 noon	Choir Practice 7:00 PM	Good Friday Service with communion 10:30 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter Sunday		Walking Group 11:00		Choir Practice 7:00 PM		
31						