

Maundy Thursday Prayer Stations FAMILY

Below are five prayer stations to do at home as we prepare for Good Friday and Easter celebrations. They require few supplies and a simple set-up so that you can create a holy space from the safety of your home. Set them up ahead of time so you can move through them uninterrupted in a spirit of prayer.

Station 1: Community Cross

Supplies needed: coloring sheet and coloring utensils

Instructions:

Color the attached cross however you like, and display it wherever you watch worship at home, as a reminder of God's promise of new life through the cross. Bring it to worship for a big community display when we are all physically together again!

Read:

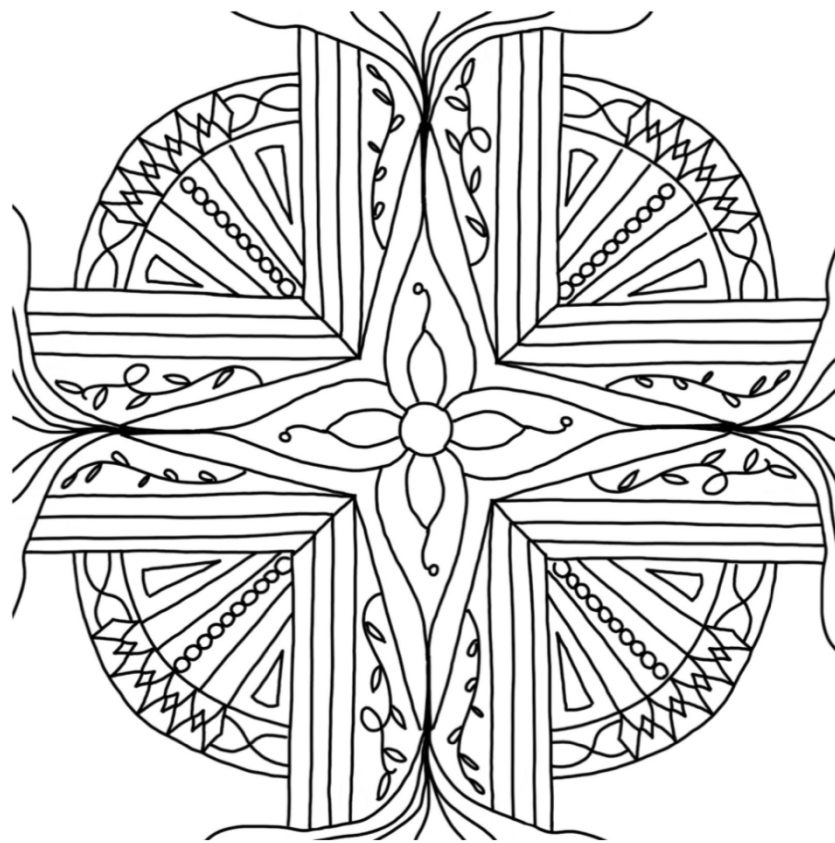
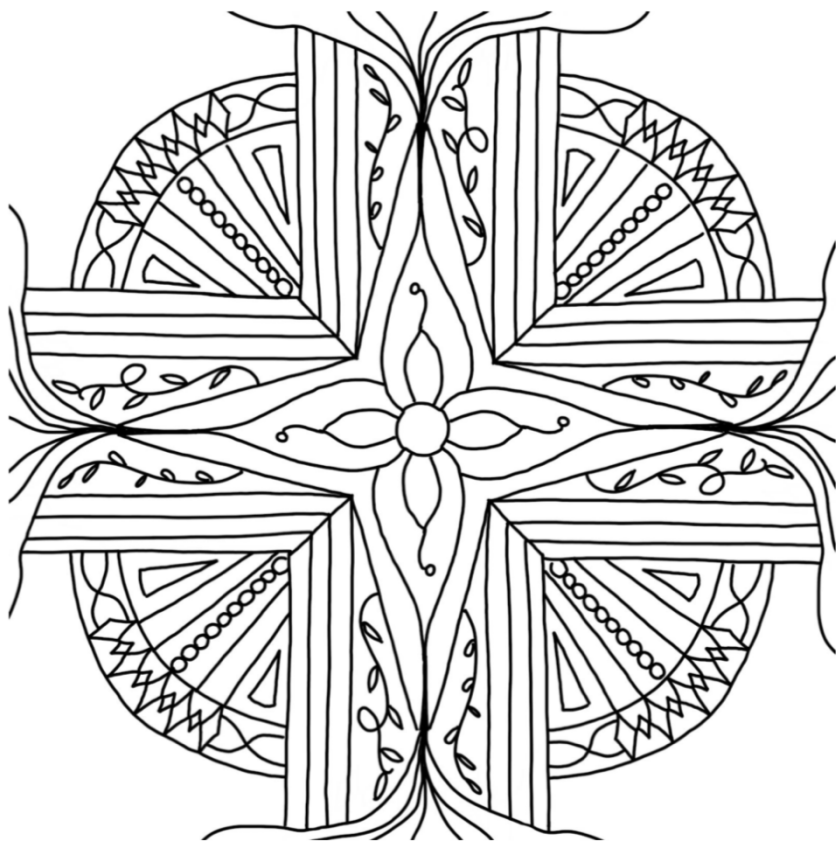
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Listen while you color: Beautiful Things by Gungor or your favorite worship song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Cp6F2orRYo>

Notes from the artist, Pastor, Emmy Kegler about the cross:

- The cross has three bands for Jesus' three days in the tomb.
- The circle around the cross has woven strands and thorns, reminding us that God suffers with us.
- At the center is a flower- a sign of new life.
- The flower's growth goes to the edges of the frame just as Jesus sends us, renewed, into the world.



Station 2: Prayers pleasing to God

Supplies needed: incense or a good-smelling candle

Read:

Ezekiel 20:40-44

"For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord God, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land. There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings. As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers. And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God."

Instructions:

Israel rebelled. Israel sinned against God. And yet God still promised to restore them and to gather them again from all of the places they had been scattered. There would be a day of judgement, but out of God's mercy and care, God will restore.

In Holy Week, as we prepare for Good Friday, we recognize that we also have rebelled and sinned against God. We deserve judgement. But out of God's abundant love and care for us, he sends his son, Jesus Christ, to take on the cross for our sins, and to reconcile us back to God, not on our own but only through Jesus. God restores.

Say a prayer of confession for the ways you have rebelled against the love of God and not loved your neighbor (or your family member during this time of quarantine) as you should. As you light your incense or candle, watch the smoke rise up toward God, and pray that your confession, offering, and sacrifice be pleasing to God.

Psalms 141:1-2

O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me!

Give ear to my voice when I call to you!

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,

and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Genesis 8:21-22

"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.'"

Station 3: Foot-washing

Supplies need: bowl of water and a towel

Read:

John 13:1-15

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Instructions:

Foot washing has become a symbol of Jesus' servant ministry on earth. Washing his disciples' feet was a dirty job. It was unexpected. It was a humbling. Indicative of the great sacrificial love he would display on the cross. And now Jesus teaches his disciples that to love one another is to serve one another.

Taking the bowl, wash the feet of another member of your family as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation between you, as well as a sign of the life of service Christ calls us to. May we come to know that the greatest among us must be the servant to all.

Station 4: Prayers for the World

To view a map of the world impacted by COVID-19, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/world-map.html>

Instructions:

Consider printing or posting this map in a visible place, or just utilizing it to pray for our world by region. Pray for healing, pray for healthcare workers, pray for leaders to make difficult and necessary decisions for the health of all. And pray for medical advancements or discoveries that might slow and heal the spread of this virus as agents of God's healing in the world.

Pray also for our community, and state and local officials.

Pray for your neighborhood.

Station 5: A Wall of Thanksgiving:

Supplies need: Index card or paper, pencil

Read:

Psalms 136:1-3

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Instructions:

Though there is much sickness and suffering going on right now, there is still much to be grateful for. God's love endures, God is still with us, and God is moving among us.

Take a moment to share with your family about a way you have experienced God's love and presence during this time of quarantine.

List some of the things you are grateful for: unexpected family time, rest, a break from school...

Write each thing on an index card and post it somewhere visible; refrigerator, a wall, laid out on a coffee table. Consider keeping these cards up, or adding to them in the coming days, as a reminder of God's presence, love, and provision. And let us give thanks to the Lord.