

HOLY WEEK at OUC

A Note from Molly

My dearest flock,

As Holy Week draws near, I have been doing much thinking about this journey we as Christians make each year. From the celebration of Palm Sunday, the intimacy of Maundy Thursday, the pain of Good Friday, the desolation of Easter Saturday, to the joy of Easter Sunday morning. Each one of us relates with a particular day of Jesus' journey, and where we find ourselves changes from year to year. I wonder where it is you find yourself with Jesus and his followers in 2022?

I will miss being with you all this Holy Week. As I have often told you, it is by far my most special and sacred time of year as a minister, and to be away from all of you this year leaves a hole in my heart. Your prayers, notes, emails, and kindnesses help patch that hole and for that I am most grateful.

My recovery continues slowly. I am blessed by a team of professionals whom I trust and who are committed to working with me. The journey is slow and long, yet I am moving forward step by step.

Please know that I will be holding you all in my heart, and praying that OUC experiences a meaningful Holy Week. I offer particular gratitude to the staff and volunteers who have stepped in during my absence - strength and courage to you all!

With gentle hugs and much love,
Rev Molly

A Note from Caroline

Holy Week Greetings,

As I said yesterday during worship, let us all enter into this week gently. To assist you on this Holy Week journey, and as you remember Jesus' last days, here is the schedule of Holy Week and Easter services:

1. See below for an at-home Maundy Thursday service. Click on the "download document" button for the full text. We encourage you to make use of it on Thursday evening.
 2. Scott and I will offer an on-line worship service for Good Friday. You will find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/Orleansunitedchurch/videos>
 3. On Sunday April 17 we will gather in person at 10 am to rejoice and sing Alleluia. This Easter service will also be live-streamed (please note there will not be Sunday School this day).
 4. Also, please watch your email inbox later this week for the final installment of Rev. Eric's devotional, this time for Good Friday and Easter Vigil.
-



At Orleans United, we have traditionally hosted a Maundy Thursday evening worship service. At that service we remember the last night Jesus spent with his disciples. We participate in washing each other's hands, and in sharing communion around our table, just as Jesus did with his friends.

This year, things are a little different. While we are disappointed that we will not gather together to share this part of the journey of Holy Week, we believe that Christ is with us in his word, and in our actions, drawing us together by his Spirit. Now, more than ever, hearing words of Scripture and participating in familiar rituals remind us of God's presence with us.....always.

We pray this at-home service will bring you some sense of comfort, and that you will feel connected to one another and to God knowing that your brothers and sisters in Christ all around the world are remembering Jesus' last night together.

At this tender and holy time, we cling tightly to the promise of our faith....that in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Your servants in Christ,

Revs Molly & Caroline

[Download Document](#)

