



ACADIA  
UNIVERSITY

MANNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL

April 5, 2020

Dear Acadia Students,

Resilience Through Ritual, Remembered Stories and the Strains of Music

This week marks the end of formal instructions for Acadia University courses and the beginning of the weeks for the completion of final assessments. This is also the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Significantly, this week is the time when Jews and Christians have some of their most important observances. These observances include rituals, remembered stories and the strains of special music that promote resilience and faith in God.

Christians observe Sunday, April 5, 2020 as Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday rituals include decorating churches with palm branches and remembering the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The rituals and story found in the Bible symbolize victory and the coming of a King who saves. Holy Week is observed from Palm Sunday until the Saturday of the week. Rituals between Thursday and Saturday reflect on Jesus' suffering, betrayal, abandonment by friends, unjust condemnation and painful execution. Easter Sunday follows when the rituals celebrate Jesus resurrection, the overcoming of death and new life.

The Jewish Passover recalls the story, recorded in the Torah, of God raising up a great leader, Moses, who delivered God's people from enslavement, sickness, death, danger and despair. The Passover includes special rituals such as the Seder meal. The Passover observance this week begins at sunset on Wednesday April 8 and ends at sunset seven or eight days later. In both Jewish and Christian observances this year, special music will play a part.

In addition to formal religious observances some families have established traditions to inspire and motivate each other. Informal rituals and stories of resilience are sometimes passed on in families. Are there stories of members of your family overcoming adversity and special family celebrations that have been passed on from one generation to another? Are there special songs or instrumental music that make you feel optimistic and courageous? Can you recall them now?

You are invited to explore religious resources of ritual and sacred stories to help you cope as you complete the last of your assessments and plan for the future. Some resources for Holy Week and Easter are on the Manning Memorial Chapel website. They include music, Bible readings, plus reflection and prayer guides. You are also encouraged to explore other relevant spiritual resources; recall inspiring stories from your own family or about persons whom you admire; and listen to inspiring music to build your resilience at this time.

Peace and blessings

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death of Jesus by crucifixion; Holy Saturday – Jesus remains buried in a tomb; Easter Sunday - Jesus is raised from death.

An invitation is being given for us to reflect on what these stories might mean for us at this time as we cope with the COVID- 19 pandemic, search for a ‘new normal’ and find hope for the future.

## Palm Sunday: April 5, 2020

### MUSIC

#### Procession and Hymn for Palm Sunday

Craig Courtney (used with permission Beckenhorst Press)

#### Kyrie de Angelis - Paul Halley

(performed by the Manning Chapel Choir 2016)

"Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Alleluia!"

#### Hosanna Filio David (YouTube) "Hosanna to the son of David!"

#### Palm Sunday chant: Duxerunt Pullum Ad Jesum (YouTube link)

Mark 11:7-9 - And they brought the colt to Jesus and cast their garments on him, and He sat upon him.

And many spread their garments upon the way, and others cut down branches off the trees and strewed them upon the way.

And those who went before, and those who followed, cried, saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!"

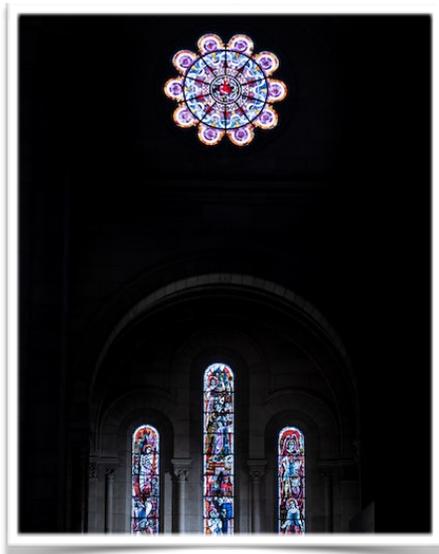


Fig.2

## READING

### Matthew 21:1-11

Summary: Jesus instructs his disciples to fetch a donkey and her colt. He rides the donkey into Jerusalem and crowds gather putting tree branches in their way. They hail Jesus as the king that had been spoken about by a prophet -a king who would come to help the people.

Notes: The donkey and the branches placed for Jesus to ride on symbolize a King or general who is humble and who brings peace, grace and victory. But there are also those who question this understanding of Jesus.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How can I exercise leadership that promotes peace, grace and the victory of right over wrong?
- Which leaders do I admire and why?
- How have I experienced being led by God/Higher Power?

## PRAYER GUIDE

- I am thankful for....
- I ask God to help me with...
- I am sorry for...
- I ask God to forgive and heal...
- I have hope and sense God's love and power when...



Fig.3

# Maundy Thursday (or Holy Thursday): April 9, 2020

## MUSIC

O Vos Omnes - T. L. Victoria (performed by the Manning Chapel Choir, 2016)

O Sacrum Convivium - Olivier Messiaen (performed by the Manning Chapel Choir, 2017)

Hymn of Kassia - performed by King College Chapel Choir, Halifax (YouTube)

My Song Is Love Unknown - King's College Cambridge (YouTube)

Stay With Me - Taize (YouTube)

## READING

### John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Summary: Jesus and his followers (disciples) gather to celebrate the Passover. This is a Jewish festival celebrating God's freeing of God's people from enslavement. Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. Jesus tells his disciples that an example has been set as the teacher has washed the feet of his disciples. Jesus' followers are also to wash each other's feet and love each other.

Notes: In the context of the story, when guests visited a home a slave would wash the dusty feet of the guests. Jesus, the esteemed Teacher, served his followers by providing the service that would normally be done by the person with the lowest rank in the society. On March 24, 2016, Pope Francis washed and kissed the feet of refugees from different religions. At this time during the COVID-19 pandemic, many refugees and homeless people are without proper shelter and many are walking...



Fig.4

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Look at the photographs <sup>(1)</sup> at the link below:

*Photos: Pope Francis washes and kisses the feet of Muslim, Hindu, and Christian refugees*

<https://qz.com/647532/photos-pope-francis-washes-and-kisses-the-feet-of-muslim-hindu-and-christian-refugees/>



What issues are raised for you regarding:

- Pope Francis washing and kissing the feet of Refugees from different religions?
- Who is recording the stories and who is helping refugees during this COVID- 19 pandemic?
- Who God is and where is God is as humanity faces this crisis?

## PRAYER GUIDE

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- I am sorry for...
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## EXTRA ACTIVITY

You may want to explore and compare special observances of other religions during the month of April. Two such observances are the Passover in Judaism, beginning at sundown on Wednesday April 8, 2020 and Ramadan in Islam, beginning Friday April 24, 2020

# Good Friday: April 10, 2020

## MUSIC

Were You There - trad. (performed by Mahalia Jackson, YouTube)

Aramaic Chant-Psalm 50 (YouTube)

Out Of The Deep (from Requiem) - J. Rutter (performed by the Manning Chapel Choir, 2016)

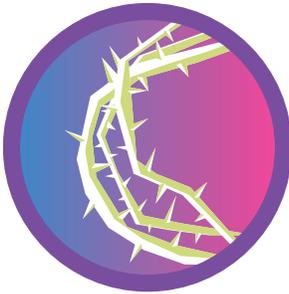
Jesus, Remember Be - Taize (YouTube)

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß - J.S. Bach (performed by John M. Scott, chapel organist)

## READING

### John 18:1-19:42

Summary: Jesus is identified by his disciple Judas and arrested. Jesus is then questioned by the High Priest and while that is happening, his disciple Peter denies knowing Jesus. Jesus then appears before Pilate as the people demand that Jesus be executed by crucifixion. Jesus is crucified as three women including his mother plus a male disciple are standing at the foot of the cross. Jesus speaks from the cross and dies. Two other friends get permission from Pilate to take Jesus' body and they put the body in a tomb.



Notes: One way of portraying important stories in the Bible has been through sacred art, including stained glass windows. In the past, these were often developed to help illiterate church members learn about the Bible stories. Stained glass windows and other religious art can also be understood as a means of interpreting Bible stories and presenting the Artist's interpretation for the reflection of the viewers.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Look at these two photographs of the crucifixion from a panel in the lancet window of the Manning Memorial Chapel at Acadia University. One photograph shows the window in light, the other without light.

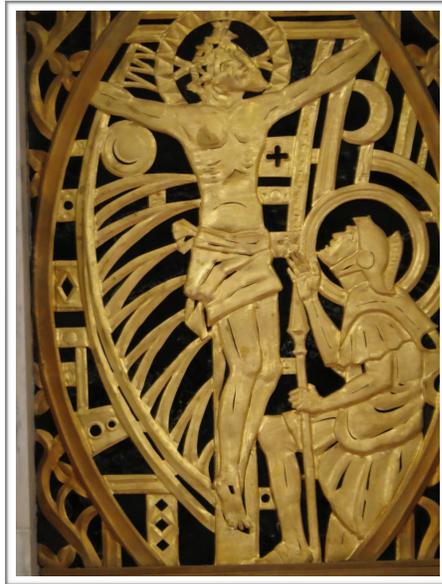


Fig.a

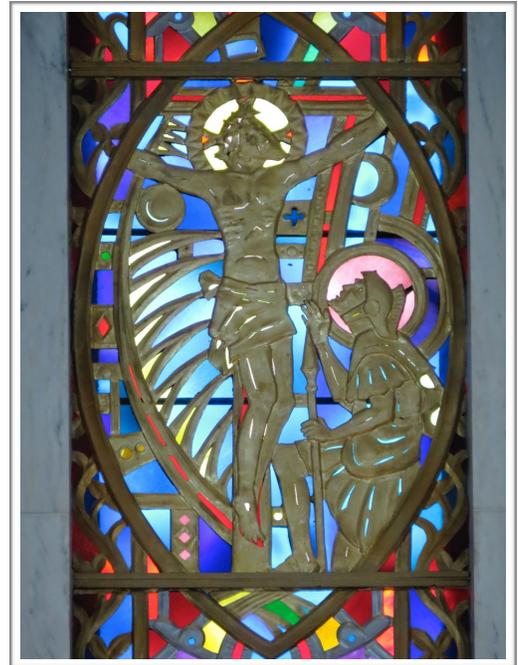


Fig.b

- What do you see?
- What do you feel?
- What does it mean to you?

For more information on the stained-glass windows in the Manning Memorial Chapel go to this link:  
Manning Memorial Chapel Brochure <https://bit.ly/zwVmJbd>

## PRAYER GUIDE

- I am thankful for....
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# Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020

## MUSIC

Indodana - trad. IsiXhosa (performed by the Manning Chapel Choir, 2017)

Even When He Is Silent - Kim Andre Arnesen (performed by the Manning Chapel Choir, 2018 YouTube)

Within Our Darkest Night - Taize (YouTube)

Pilgrim Hymn - Stephen Paulus (performed by the Manning Chapel Choir, 2017)

## READING

### Matthew 27:57-66

Summary: Jesus' friends take his body and place it in a tomb. Some women sit opposite the tomb. The next day the chief priests and Pharisees ask and Pilate agrees to send soldiers to secure and seal the tomb. They wanted to prevent the disciples stealing the body and saying that Jesus had been raised from the dead.



Fig.5

Notes: The COVID-19 crisis has caused a stillness and a 'burial' of many of the activities that would normally be happening at this time. Social distancing requires us to stay home, in our 'caves.' Pause to consider the possibility that being buried and unable to get out may be an opportunity. What could be the result of silence, of lack of activity, of being in the dark? A seed buried in the ground can die, germinate and new life grows....

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What is there that is buried or hidden that I am curious about?
- What strikes me as I listen to the poem, *Negro Cemeteries* by Afua Cooper at the link below, in light of the COVID-19 crisis, and on Holy Thursday?

Meet Afua Cooper, Halifax's new poet laureate <sup>(2)</sup>

<https://binged.it/2R8iOyz>



Fig.6

## PRAYER GUIDE

- I am thankful for....
- I ask God to help me with...
- I am sorry for...
- I ask God to forgive and heal...
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# Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

## MUSIC

Hymns: Christ The Lord Is Risen Today & Thine Be The Glory  
(Duke Chapel, 2012 YouTube)

Christ Our Passover - P. Halley (performed by the Manning Chapel Choir, 2016)

In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful - Taize (YouTube)

Ain't No Grave - trad. arr. Caldwell and Ivory (performed by the MSU Singers YouTube)

Freedom Trilogy - Paul Halley (YouTube)

## READING

### Matthew 28:1-10

Summary: Mary Magdalene and another woman, also named Mary go to Jesus' tomb. There is an earthquake and an angel appears, telling them not to be afraid as Jesus had been raised from the dead. The angel tells them to look and see that Jesus is not in the tomb and to go tell the disciples that Jesus would meet them in Galilee. They hurry to give the message feeling both fearful and joyful. On the way they see Jesus who greets them and tells them not to be afraid, and to go tell the disciples that Jesus will meet them in Galilee.

Notes: One way of portraying important stories in the Bible has been through sacred art, including stained glass windows. In the past, these were often developed to help illiterate church members learn about the Bible stories. Stained glass windows and other religious art can also be understood as a means of interpreting Bible stories and presenting the Artist's interpretation for the reflection of the viewers.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Look at these two photographs of the resurrection from a panel in the lancet of the Manning Memorial Chapel at Acadia University. One photograph shows the window in light, the other without light.

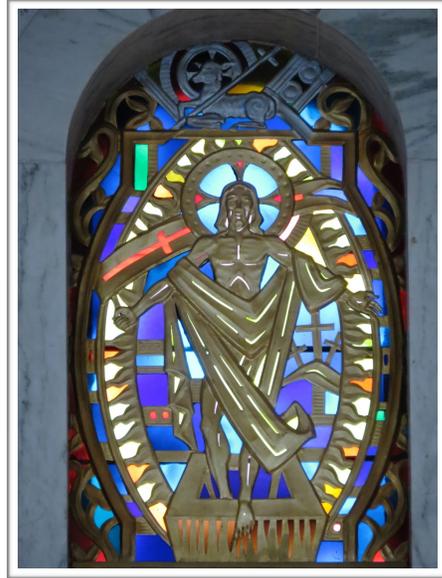


Fig.c

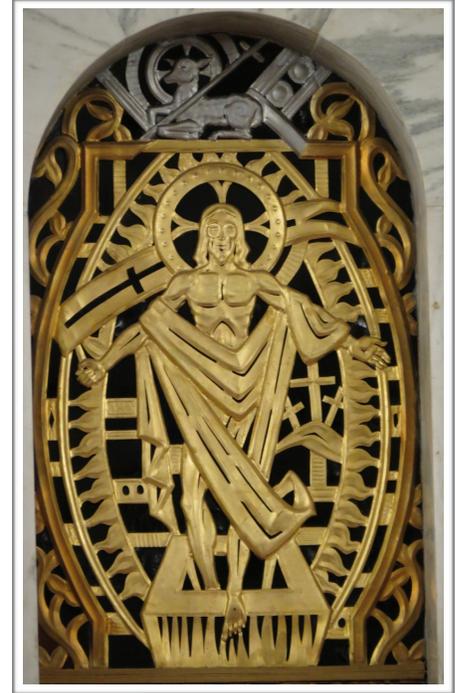


Fig.d

- What do you see?
- What do you feel?
- What does it mean to you?

For more information on the stained-glass windows in the Manning Memorial Chapel go to this link:  
Manning Memorial Chapel Brochure <https://bit.ly/2wVmJbd>

## PRAYER GUIDE

- I am thankful for...
- I ask God to help me with...
- I am sorry for...
- I ask God to forgive and heal...
- I have hope and sense God's love and power when...

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### Palm Sunday

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### Good Friday

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### Holy Saturday

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Indodana

Women: The Lord has taken his son who lived amongst us. The son of the Lord God was crucified.

Men: "Hololo Father Jehovah" (Hololo represents crying and has no translation); "Zjem zja father" (Zjem zja is expressive).

### Easter Sunday

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Fig. 1. Amit LaHav. Source: Digital Image. Available from: <https://unsplash.com/photos/N2F6wXO1gM> (accessed April 7, 2020)

Fig. 2. Stephanie Leblanc. Source: Digital Image. Available from: [https://unsplash.com/photos/7dfQCM\\_-LjQ](https://unsplash.com/photos/7dfQCM_-LjQ) (accessed April 7, 2020)

Fig. 3. Aaron Burden. Source: Digital Image. Available from: <https://unsplash.com/photos/7oJ3O6pk1os> (accessed April 7, 2020)

Fig. 4. Leszek Forczek, *Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet*. Source: Digital Image. Available from: <https://faithandleadership.com/nathan-kirkpatrick-maundy-thursday> (accessed April 7, 2020)

Fig. 5. Source: Digital Image. Available from: <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-fonwx> (accessed April 7, 2020)

Fig. 6. Source: Digital Image. Available from: <https://afuacooper.com/2015/03/07/15-ships-to-sierra-leone/> (accessed April 7, 2020)

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