

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2022

*Christ our Lord became obedient unto death;
O come, let us worship!*

Dear Friends in Christ;

The journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day is a process of dramatic re-creation; both the re-creation of moments in time nearly 2000 years ago as well as the re-creation of our souls.

In readings and liturgies that we celebrate just once each year, we enter into the final days of Christ's earthly life and ministry before His death and resurrection. We do so not because we wish to re-live those days, nor out of any morbid fascination with things that are gruesome and violent: we see enough of that in the news on a daily basis. Rather, we do so to be reminded, in ways that we can both hear and see, in ways that speak to both mind and heart, of the events which are the foundation for our hope.

And hope is such a vital part of strong and stable lives: the hope that tells us that we are not alone, that we do not face our struggles or our doubts or our worries or our fears with just the strength that we can muster; the hope that assures us that the disorder of our disordered world, and maybe even our disordered hearts, will not last forever.

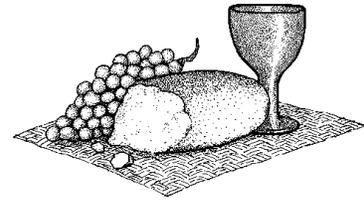


The events of **Holy Week**, from **Palm Sunday** all the way through to **Easter Day**, shout out for all to hear that God faces every fear and worry and struggle for us, and conquers them all on our behalf. He refuses to just sit back and leave us to fight alone; he comes in our own flesh and blood, as one of us, and on our behalf, he embraces the very things that we wish to avoid; the very powers which we cannot overcome on our own.



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I invite you to embrace those moments with Christ thorough the days of Holy Week; to walk with Him as the people of Jerusalem greet Him as their King on Palm Sunday; to gather in the Upper Room in the



fellowship of His disciples to eat the Passover Meal and to hear His command to love one another on **Maundy Thursday**; to stand at the foot of Golgotha and be reminded of the utter depth of His love on **Good Friday**; and to be filled with new life as new light shatters the darkness of death and despair when we gather in the bright joyfulness of Easter morning: the **Day of the Resurrection!**

These are the events that make sense of life; the events that bring some sense of purpose when we see so much in the world that fills us with fear and confusion. Jesus lives and dies and lives again. And because He lives forever, nothing else need ever to frighten us. He has seen the very worst that life can throw at us and He has overcome it all.



Join us as we celebrate these holy days. I am sure that it will make a wonderful difference in your life.

In Christ's Holy Name,

Fr. Kevin M. Stockall

Our Services on YouTube:

As we have done since the start of the pandemic, we will be providing recorded services and meditations for those who wish to worship with us virtually. I hope to post brief meditations for the **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** of Holy Week, as well as full recorded liturgies for **Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day**. Please bookmark our YouTube page (or follow the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXM4z2fUOOQ-Na1geJp-rXg/videos>); or more simply, you can go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for St. Mary's Anglican Church Fredericton. and check each day for the most recent posting.