



## **Welcome to 44 Hours of Prayer 2019**

Prayer is one of three core values at Trinity Church; a critical component of our Christian walk such that we strive to "Pray now, pray often". For the first time our campuses are hosting dedicated prayer times covering the 44 hours of prayer representing 6 locations starting Friday, April 19th and ending Sunday, April 21st.

### **Ephesians 6:18**

*"Prayer is the way we stay connected with God and it gives us the power to fulfill His purposes."*

During Passion Week, 44 Hours of Prayer is an opportunity for the Trinity Church family to focus on our personal and communal reflection on the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior and preparation for the resurrection of Christ Jesus. This hour is a time for you to be one on one with God in prayer and petition. May He bless you during this time of prayer and use your prayers to bless and encourage others.

This Prayer Guide is intended to direct your thoughts and focus your prayers. At each of the six stations there will be scripture passages, prayer points, and some kind of response activity. Please don't feel that you have to follow every suggestion. Allow God's Spirit to direct your prayers and your time; spend as much time as you'd like at each station.

This guide also provides space for you to note personal prayers or responses. Write freely and keep this book with you as a reference. As you move through the stations, feel free to sit, stand, walk, or kneel. As you pray at each station, don't forget to listen as well to what God may have for you; and write down what you hear and feel.

44 Hours of Prayer is focused on the days of Holy Week. The six stations are aligned to the eight days from Palm Sunday to Easter.

As you begin this prayer journey, ask God to speak to you and keep you focused on Him. Pray for others who may be in the room praying with you. Also pray that God would use this time to draw you into His presence and to prepare you for an amazing Resurrection Day celebration!

## Station One – Palm Sunday

Close your eyes and place yourself on the road to Jerusalem where Jesus is riding a donkey through a crowd of worshipers, placing cloaks and palms in His path. Palm branches were a Jewish symbol for triumph and victory and placing coverings in one's path was a custom afforded someone deemed worthy of the highest honor. This crowd was exalting Jesus Christ without fear or reservation; a celebration of the Messiah that was fit for a king. Consider the humility in which Jesus entered Jerusalem to accept the brutal sacrifice that He knew had to happen in the days to come. Think about being in the crowd as Jesus rides into a broken world to save the lost. These followers of Jesus were triumphantly celebrating the arrival of their King without knowledge of the events that would follow in the days to come.

### **Matthew 21:6-11**

*The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,*

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!"*

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

*"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

*When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."*

**Now imagine you are in the group of worshipers along the road and Jesus stops to ask you "who do you say I am?" Journal your responses below and write a few things you would say to Jesus (remember that you don't know of his suffering that is yet to come).**

**Go now into prayer, praising and exalting Jesus as your Messiah and King with love and adoration for the ministry and works that He has done in your life and those close to you. Just worship Jesus for His ministry to date, as of Palm Sunday. Be reminded of our mission statement at Trinity that is 'to make disciples who exalt Jesus Christ and honor God's word in all that they say and do'.**

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## Station Two - Holy Monday through Holy Tuesday

After the events of Palm Sunday, Jesus left Jerusalem and spent the night in Bethany, a few miles away at the foot of the Mount of Olives. On his way back to Jerusalem on Monday, Jesus was hungry and saw a fig tree that had blossomed early for the season.

### **Matthew 21:18-22**

*Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

Also, on Monday, Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out the money changers and vendors who had turned His Father's house of prayer into a 'den of robbers'.

### **Matthew 21:12-13**

*Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"*

### **Matthew 23:1-4**

*Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them."*

After teaching and healing in Jericho the week prior and a triumphant parade into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus spends Monday and Tuesday teaching hard lessons of hypocrisy and the inevitable outcome of those who practice it. He takes the time as he cleanses the temple and shrivels the barren fig tree, to emphasize the importance of prayer and gives insight into the power that God has instilled in us if we only will have faith and surrender to His authority over all things.

**Take the time now to pray for your country and for both government and Christian leaders that they would seek God's will and lead with His singleness of heart, strength, grace, understanding, courage, and love. Pray that the hypocrisy that Jesus warns of in these passages are suppressed and eradicated from your own life as well as the lives of leaders in governments and churches alike.**

## Station Three - Holy Wednesday

This day was a quiet day for Jesus. He likely removed himself from the crowds of followers and sought refuge to spend time with His Father and pray for what was to come.

### **Psalm 46:10**

*"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth."*

***Now sit or kneel being completely still and silent to bask in the presence of your Lord and Savior. Feel His Spirit in the room and listen for His response to your prayer time thus far; practice being in the presence of God. Write down anything that comes across your mind that may be from God.***

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## Station Four - Maundy Thursday

Jesus demonstrated the gift of communion through the Last Supper as a way to honor his sacrifice for us on the cross, which is just a day away. Before the Passover meal began, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. He was illustrating the cleansing from sin that they needed and showing them how to forgive and serve one another.

### **John 13:1-17**

*"It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and*

*Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."*

**Wash your hands with cleanser as you thank God for the cleansing you have in Christ. Ask God to join you right here, right now in this space; desire and soak in His presence. Remember that true repentance requires honest confession, humility, and commitment to a change in behavior.**

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Later, Jesus went into the Garden of Gethsemane with the disciples to pray to His Heavenly Father. Consider what the disciples must be thinking at this point as Jesus is deeply sorrowed and troubled.

**Matthew 26:39-42**

*Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*

**On a 3x5 card, write one thing that you would most like God to take from you. Pray in the manner that Jesus did in Gethsemane, with complete knowledge and understanding that if it is His will, He can lift anything from us. Enjoy this moment of complete surrender to your Lord and Savior. Keep the 3x5 card in your bible and continue to pray over it faithfully and watch to see what God does with it.**

## **Station Five - Good Friday**

After He was beaten, whipped, mocked, scorned, ridiculed, and stripped naked, Jesus was nailed to a cross before the world where He died a slow, painful death. On his left and right hung two criminals, one representing repentance and the other rejection. Each of these choices are available to us today. Which will you choose?

**Matthew 27: 32-54**

*As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

*Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"* In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

*From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli lemasabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").*

*When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."*

*Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."*

*And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.*

*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.*

*When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"*

**Imagine you are at the place called the Skull. Kneel or sit before the cross and repent as if Jesus were hanging above you gasping for his last breaths before dying to wipe away all your sin and unrighteousness. Think about what you would say to Jesus in this moment.**

**As you kneel at the foot of the cross, be honest and humble as you place your sin at the feet of Jesus, confessing and asking for forgiveness. Write these things on the provided 3x5 card and leave at the cross where it belongs.**

**Pray for those who have wronged or hurt you such that you can forgive them and lift them up as your neighbor.**

**Draw a cross with the provided purple marker where it will remind you during this Holy time Christ died for you for the forgiveness of your sins.**

**Say a prayer of thanksgiving for the fact that Jesus lived the perfect life here on earth prior to 'paying in full' the price for our sins.**

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**1 Peter 1:18-19**

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

**Acts 2:38**

*"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Write on the scroll, the names of those that you want lifted up in prayer for salvation, healing, or redirection. Think about how you can participate in God's answering of these prayers.**

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## **Station Six – Holy Saturday to Resurrection Sunday**

God reveals His glory and power in miraculous ways but none more life changing than the resurrection of Christ. The foundation of the Christian faith and the greatest event in the history of the world, the resurrection provides all the hope we need to live a fulfilling life that glorifies God here on earth and allows us to prepare for eternal life with God in heaven. Remember when Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection, he rebuked them for their lack of faith and disbelief. Then He delivered to the disciples and all of us, the greatest commission ever given.

**Mark 16:15-16**

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

**Matthew 28: 18-20**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

