



**EASTER SERVICE FOR FAMILIES 2021:  
ACCOMPANYING RESOURCES**

**HOPES AND DREAMS:  
Palm Sunday**

**RESOURCES NEEDED:** Palm leaves (See template)  
Basket to put the palm leaves in

**CONTEXT:** We all dream about how things could be different and how our lives and others' lives in the world could be better.

**As you listen to the story of Palm Sunday, think about your hopes and dreams for the future.**

**ACTIVITY / REFLECTION:**

**Write your hopes or dreams for the future on your palm leaf and lay your leaf in the basket.**

**SERVICE:  
Jesus washes the feet of his disciples**

**RESOURCES:** Hand-shaped paper cut outs- Draw around your own to provide these  
Optional: Jug, towel and bowl

**CONTEXT:** After Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he said, "I have set you an example."

**ACTIVITY / REFLECTION:**

**Think about the ways that you can help others.**

**Write what you could do to help others on your cut-out hand outline and then lay the hands on the floor or around the jug and bowl.**

## **THANKSGIVING: Jesus shares bread and wine**

**RESOURCES:** Heart shapes- children to make  
Optional- Cloth, low table, bread, cup

**CONTEXT:** Jesus shared his last meal with his friends.  
Jesus took bread and wine and gave thanks.

### **ACTIVITY / REFLECTION:**

**What are the things that you are thankful for in your life?**

**Write what you are thankful for on a heart** and then lay the hearts together in the centre of the floor or table (near the bread and cup if these are used).

## **SPECIAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS: The Garden of Gethsemane**

**RESOURCES:**  
One candle for the family or a candle for each member of the family; matches

**CONTEXT:**  
There are times when we feel alone – we need others. Christians believe that God is always with them and they talk to God in prayer.

**Who are the people who would be there for you if you needed someone?**

### **ACTIVITY / REFLECTION:**

When people visit a church or cathedral, they often light a candle as a sign of their prayers and special thoughts.

A candle will now be lit for your family, or individual candles to represent each person.

**Sit quietly for a moment and think about someone or something that is in your special thoughts or prayers at the moment.**

**HOPE:  
Jesus dies on the cross**

**RESOURCES:**

Red card cross that has pre-cut slits; cream, white or yellow strips of card

Alternative: A cross with your own design or flowers on to colour in (See templates)

**CONTEXT:**

In our lives we sometimes have times of worry or pain and it can seem as if there is no hope. This is how Jesus' friends felt when Jesus suffered and died.

**But Christians believe that death is not the end.**

**ACTIVITY / REFLECTION:**

When Christians look at the cross we see it as a sign of hope. We believe that there is nothing in life that God does not understand, and that God will always be with us.

**Take a red card cross and weave cream, white or yellow strips through it to symbolise hope.**

**Or: Make your own "Hope cross" design on a blank cross or colour in the cross with flowers** (Templates on the website).

**NEW BEGINNINGS:  
Resurrection**

**RESOURCES:** Things to symbolise resurrection/hope/new life

Examples: seeds/bulbs for planting; butterflies (See template) and string to hang up; rainbows

Alternative: Make an Easter card for your family

**CONTEXT:** Christians believe that death is not the end, because of what happened on Easter Sunday. Three days after he died on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead.

The Easter story fills Christians with **hope**, because it shows us that God is always with us – even when life is difficult and it seems that there is no hope. This is because of Jesus' resurrection and it is what we remember and celebrate on Easter Sunday.

**ACTIVITY / REFLECTION:**

In the midst of darkness and sadness, there is always hope.

**As a family, celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection.**

**Enjoy making your Easter cards, butterflies or rainbows and displaying them; or enjoy planting seeds and bulbs together as a family.**

**Take some time to pray and celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection together.**

