



Presbytery of Yukon

April 8, 2020

In This Newsletter

[Sacrifice & Resurrection](#)

[Online Worship Options](#)

[Children's Resources Needed](#)

[Grants Available](#)

[Holy Week Ideas](#)

[Dues Relief](#)

Prayer Requests



Please keep the entire world in your prayers as we all work together to get through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Stay Connected



Visit Our Website:
www.PBYukon.org

Sacrifice and Resurrection: It is the Way of the World

Holy week is a time for remembering how Jesus had to sacrifice in order to bring salvation and healing to a lost and broken world. During Holy Week, we remember how Jesus embraced the task and sacrifice of salvation, and entered Jerusalem specifically to take on that task. We remember how he was betrayed by a beloved friend, was arrested like a criminal and taken to unjust judgment by religious and secular leaders-all to maintain a social order dominated by privileged classes of people.

Despite the betrayal, injustice and torture that of Holy Week, on Sunday everything takes a turn. On that first Easter, Jesus rose triumphant over death, over evil, and over sin. Easter is about not giving-in to the forces of the world, because God does not let evil win-not in the long run.

This Holy week, so many people are sacrificing for their brothers and sisters. Medical personnel and emergency responders face infection from a deadly virus every day. Bus drivers, food delivery personnel and so many others go out to do essential services, despite the dangers of this time. Stockers of grocery shelves, cashiers, plumbers and repairpersons-and so many more-turn out to be true heroes of the day. Even people, who stay home day after day are making a difference. It is their sacrificial patient endurance of the isolation that flattens the curve and offers hope during a pandemic.

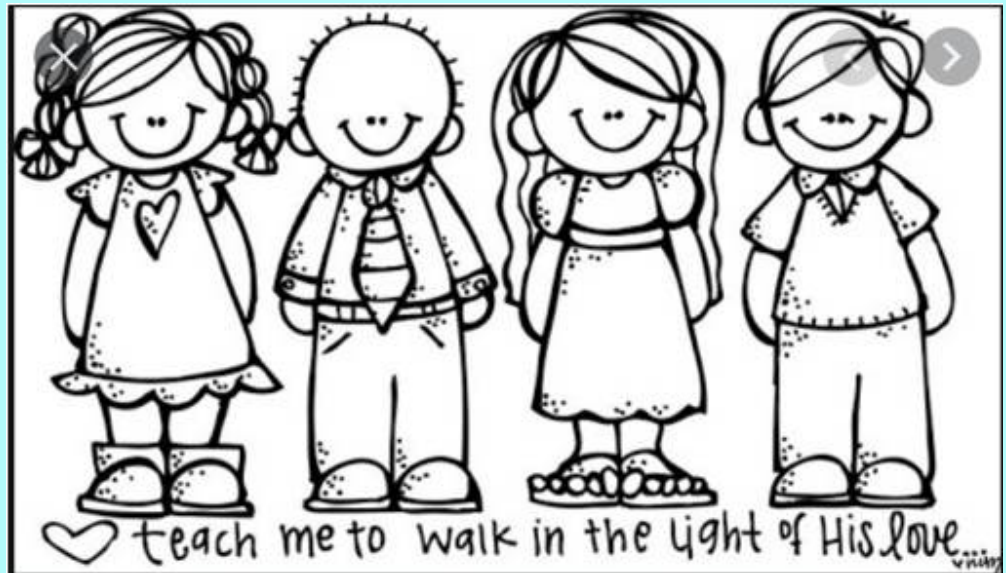
In life, if we are not willing to sacrifice for others, then the whole world suffers so much more. But, because of the embrace of sacrifice, there is a flattening of the curve of evil, and hope for the new day that will come.

This Holy Week and Easter, consider the good news of the Gospel. Jesus showed us what love is in that he offered himself for us, bringing the salvation that we could never craft for ourselves. What are we willing to sacrifice? What will we spend our lives on, and even suffer for, that adds to the hope of the world?

Alternative Worship Options

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ONLINE WORSHIP
OPTIONS AND RESOURCES, PLEASE**

Please Send Home-Children's Discipleship Sources



Family life has faced some of the most challenges during this time of sheltering-in-place. Although some schools are doing their best with reaching out to students to continue lessons, parents often find themselves in the position of being home-school teachers. For those not previously doing homeschooling, this is a big transition. It is particularly challenging when both parents are now trying to work from home.

What ideas do you have for helping parents find creative things? We would especially like to list home-school Sunday School ideas on our web site, so churches and families can easily find and share them. Send your ideas to office@pbyukon.org.

Since this is just beginning of asking for this kind of sharing, we only have a few resource to offer so far. Send us information you know about and we will add it to the list.

- **Eagle River Presbyterian Church suggestion:**
Illustrated Ministry provides downloadable opportunities for kids, including coloring pages, crafts, and Sunday School lessons.
<https://www.illustratedministry.com/>
- **Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church suggestion:**
A very special video, on a very special Easter:
Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY2NH8Wpoog&t=2s>
- **Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church suggestion:**
An Easter Scavenger Hunt, found [HERE](#).

Grants Available for Covid Response Ministry

The Leadership of the Presbytery is offering small grants (\$5000 or less) to churches needing funds for a ministry aimed at addressing COVID needs. Larger grants can be proposed, but would require a vote from presbytery (using electronic means for the vote). Notice of this was sent to the

presbytery's churches last week.

As of this writing, the Leadership Team has received two grant requests:

1. From Trinity Presbyterian Church in Anchorage: \$2000 for mask-making. (approved)
2. From the Anchorage Mass Homeless Shelter: \$539 for a television. (not yet voted)

The presbytery is drawing from its savings for this project. However, the presbytery has a request in to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for a grant to more fully fund this project.

Corona Virus (Covid) Resources for Congregations and Members

PCUSA resources are available online at: <https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>

Ideas for Home Holy Week Rituals

(Adapted from an email from Sojourners at sojo.net)

On Wednesday, the day when remember how Judas agreed to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16), we can

1. Pray for forgiveness for the ways we have betrayed our Lord, and
2. Take time to tell our loved ones how special they are.

On Thursday, the day we remember Jesus washing the disciples' feet at the Last Supper, in this corona virus crisis time we might

1. Wash the hands, instead of the feet, of the others in our household-a sign that we are all in this together, even as Jesus was in this world together with us.
2. Plan the dinner menu from the Passover:
3. Pray for all the "essential workers," who cannot the others who put themselves at risk to infection for us, so all of us are cared for, and can eat and go on.

On Friday, the day when we remember how Jesus, the light of the world, was put to death, instead of blowing out the candles and stripping communion table and everything off the walls of the sanctuary at the end of the Good Friday Service,

1. We can blow out candles at home and take the cloth off the kitchen table.
2. We can join online stations of the cross and keep a Great Silence.

On Saturday, we might

1. Dye Easter eggs -
2. Especially the red ones that signify Mary Magdalene's message (Mark 16:9-11)

On the Glorious Sunday Morning (John 20:1-10)

1. Stand outside and listen to the church bells toll, or
2. Sing your favorite Easter hymn,
3. Write "He is Risen" in the snow with food coloring and water,

4. Take an Easter stroll in the early morning with your best hat on (Luke 24:13-35).

A Special Hymn For Easter During Shelter-in-Place

This Easter Celebration

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation," Hymn 321 in "Glory to God")

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.
We're distant from our neighbors - from worship leaders, too.
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.
O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see-
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com

New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is a part-time parish associate at First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, New York, a small town in the Finger Lakes. She has served churches in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania and has been a chaplain at two hospitals and several hospices. She grants free use of the hymn to everyone, including streaming online

The Board Announces Dues Relief

In recognition of the challenges impacting employers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) due to COVID-19, the Board of Directors of the Board of Pensions today approved dues relief for churches with congregations of 300 or fewer members that have a single pastor enrolled in Pastor's Participation. These churches may be eligible for a dues waiver of up to three months. For other churches and employers, including presbyteries and affiliated organizations, Directors approved deferments of up to two months on payments for benefits. In both cases, there will be no reduction in benefits to ministers or employees.

Click for [details on dues relief and deferments](#).

Mark Your Calendars

April 8, 2020

Wednesday Night Prayer Service

At 7:30pm

By video: <https://zoom.us/j/7959606340>

By conference call: 907-276-1095

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday



**October 9-10,
2020**

Our Next Presbytery Meeting

Location: TBD

Presbytery of Yukon - 616 W. 10th Avenue, Anchorage AK 99577 - 907-276-0914

Copyright © 2015. All Rights Reserved.