



WESTMINSTER WITNESS

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My Family in Christ,

As we come nearer Holy Week, anxiety is growing across the world in the face of the spread of the coronavirus. At Westminster, it seems that for the first time we will probably be spending Holy Week and Easter celebration in our homes rather than together in church. But friends we continue with our life of ministry and mission, "separated from each other but united to all."

Following Jesus leads us to an experience of conversion, of turning away from darkness and towards the light and power of the Risen Christ. Day by day, let us not be diverted by fears, anger, regrets, confusion, and the darkness that often claims to cover the whole world and to monopolize our attention. But let us remain united, deep in our hearts to Jesus - the ultimate source of peace that remains constant and always beyond everything.

As containment measures and health precautions are increased to prevent contagion, let us take great care of the treasure of human relations. Let us keep in touch – through telephone calls and messages of friendship – with those who are isolated, and first and foremost, the oldest, most fragile and already affected by another illness or hardship.

I thank you for your continued financial support of our church during this difficult time. **We are deeply appreciative for those of you who are reaching out to keep up your regular contributions to Westminster Church.** We ask for your prayers and continue to offer our prayers for those most in need.

Please find below the worship schedule for Holy Week! Each service has many beautiful touches that will help us to retrace the final steps of our salvation that our Lord won for us in the profound events of the 1st Holy Week. I look forward to traveling the Way of the Cross with you next week.

Also, please pay special attention and participate in the many powerful outreach ministries that we are doing to aid others during this odd and frightening time. Regardless of how dark it gets, Christ is Risen and holds our lives and the whole world in his strong and able hands.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to you and yours. Though we are separated from each other, we are united to all at Westminster in Christ.

Pastor Joe



Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 5th, 10:00am - Please join us on Facebook or YouTube for a live streamed service from our Great Lawn featuring a Palm Sunday acclamation, prayer, the reading of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the reading of the Passion of Our Lord from St. Matthew's gospel, and 2 great Holy Week hymns led by soloist Shauna Puccio.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, Wednesday, April 8th, 7:30 pm - Please join us for a special "Wednesday Nite 5" devotion and time of prayer on Facebook related to the profound events of our salvation during Holy Week.



MAUNDY THURSDAY, Wednesday, April 8th, 7:30 pm - Our service will feature readings, hymns, and a message related to Jesus' Institution of Holy Communion; Confession; and an abbreviated service of Holy Communion by Intinction. Please participate in the Sacrament of Holy

Communion in your own home by preparing individual pieces of bread and grape juice or wine in advance. Please see the highlighted note at the end of this schedule.

Good Friday, April 10th, noon - On this most solemn day, our live streamed service will focus on the reading of the Passion of the Lord according to St John, Solemn Prayers for the world, and the Adoration of the Cross.



Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 12th, 7:30am - Come via Facebook to the PAR Garden in the early light to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with a brief, informal, and joyful time of prayer and a brief message.

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 12th, 10am - With the fragrance of Easter lilies perfuming our Sanctuary, please join together for a joyous Easter celebration featuring soloist Shauna Puccio leading triumphant Easter hymns, an Easter message of hope, and a full celebration of Holy Communion. See the note below.

NOTE: In anticipation that public worship would be banned, the session ordered 500 individually wrapped, sterilized, and sealed communion glasses with bread from a national church supply company.

On (Palm) Sunday, a few glove-wearing Westminster members will be distributing sterilized palm fronds and crosses at a drive thru event beginning at 11 am and concluding at noon at Westminster.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEERS WILL ALSO DISTRIBUTE THE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED, STERILIZED, AND SEALED COMMUNION GLASSES TO THOSE OF YOU

WHO PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN HOLY COMMUNION ON MAUNDY THURSDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY.

As you drive into Westminster's driveway the volunteers will have a table set up between Harlan Hall and the Sanctuary. As you drive-up, please have your car window rolled down and a volunteer will hand both a sterilized Palm crosses or frond, and communion supplies to you.

GOD'S MISSION AND MINISTRY CONTINUES THROUGH US NOW



A Palm Cross curbside giveaway event has been organized by Westminster members Stacy McGann and Kim Kosko where palms will be distributed to Westminster members and neighborhood residents through the window of their cars as they roll through our driveway on Palm Sunday (April 5th). The delivery folks will be wearing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The palm crosses and fronds will be distributed between 11 am and noon.

At the same time, we will also distribute palm crosses and a beautiful prayer card in the parking lot of either Bayshore or Riverview Hospital to encourage health care workers who are on the front lines of fighting the Coronavirus.

NOTE: Palm cross makers are urgently needed! Please call Kim Kosko at 732.291.5163 if you can help or simply show up at Harlan Hall at 1:00 pm on Friday for instruction on how to make a palm cross or access the internet and make them in your own home. Social distancing will be observed in Harlan Hall.

Baby Donations needed. Westminster is mounting a baby-supply campaign for families delivering a child at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick NJ. Newly elected Elder, Kim Simon, is a nurse working for St. Peter's, which, serves a heavily poor Hispanic population.



St Peter's has an urgent need during the Coronavirus crisis for diapers and newborn baby clothes, but will also welcome nursing pillows and pads, nursing blankets, strollers, and other newborn items in clean and good condition. If you have baby items in good condition please call the church office at 732.671.2585 to arrange a drop-off time.



Phone campaign. Westminster's Elders and Deacons have initiated a phone campaign to support our membership. They are calling to check-in on and support the physical and spiritual needs of our elderly population.

Westminster's leadership is committed to serve every segment of our congregation, not just the elderly. If you have a physical or spiritual need please call Pastor Joe at 908.601.1263 or Chair of the Deacon's, Bill Mount, at 732.803.3763.

Our food pantry is well stocked at this present time and available to our congregation by appointment. Please call Bill or Pastor Joe to make an appointment.