



Holy Week and Easter Programme



Our programme for Holy Week is aimed at bringing us all closer to the Cross of our Lord so that we may share in His death, in order to also share in His glorious resurrection here and now in Alberton.

Please see the back page for some suggestions on how to use this material, as well as important information regarding some of the services

Easter 2013 at Alberton Methodist Church

Dear Family of Christ here at Alberton Methodist Church,

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Within its traditional seven verses, this soulful, powerfully moving, yet nobly restrained spiritual encapsulates the entire story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus as described in the four Gospels. The preacher or worship leader sings the first line and the congregation responds. In the third line we are all invited to express our intimate reaction to our overwhelming memories and mental images: "*Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble....*" and then once again the question is asked "*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*" The following verses draw the imagery of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection from the tomb, leaving us all with positive hope for deliverance from our sorrows: *Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?; Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?; Were you there when the sun refused to shine?; Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?; Were you there when they rolled the stone away?; and finally: Did you know He is risen from the dead? (repeat) Oh! Sometimes I want to shout, "Glory, Glory, Glory!," Did you know He is risen from the dead?*

Our journey through Lent brings us to the realisation that, *Yes, we were there!*and then Holy Week, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday reveal to us the saving and sanctifying grace of our LORD through which we are saved and sanctified by faith. My prayer continues to be that this Lent *is*, and that this Easter season *will be* one of wonderful new spiritual growth for us all as we journey spiritually from Alberton to Jerusalem, to the upper room, to Gethsemane, to the road of suffering, to the Cross, to the sealed grave, to the empty tomb and back into Alberton.

We have planned a programme for Holy Week 2013 which is aimed at facilitating just such a spiritual journey in our lives as individuals and as a congregation. Our theme for Holy Week and Easter is *Were You There* and you are invited on a journey which will start on Saturday 23rd March with a *Stations of the Cross* walk which the entire congregation is encouraged to attend. The walk will be at your own pace through 14 prepared stations through AMC and AMCARE's beautiful grounds, anytime that suits you between 6am (quarter hour before sunrise) and 6:30pm (quarter hour after sunset). I have prepared a booklet for individual use to guide you as you walk. The Men's Breakfast group are going to have breakfast available between 8am and 10am and the Coffee Shop will be open all day as well. There will be worship and communion in the chapel throughout the day. Then it is Palm Sunday and Holy Week services Monday to Thursday at 7pm, our 3 hour service at 9am on Good Friday, Remembrance Service at 5pm on Saturday and then Easter Sunrise and Easter services on Sunday.

Please consider supporting our programme and even inviting friends and family to come along to our various events. The Easter season is a wonderful God given opportunity for evangelism.....Let's seize it and then watch as our LORD blesses our endeavours to reach out to our, and His, community.

Much love,

Cedric

Palm Sunday March 24, 2013 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	Luke 19:28-40 or John 12: 12 – 17 or Matthew 21: 1 – 9 or Mark 11: 1 - 10	<i>Were you there when ...</i> they laid palms at His feet.
Monday of Holy Week March 25, 7pm	John 12:1-11 or Luke 7: 37 – 39 or Matthew 26: 6 – 13 or Mark 14: 3 – 9	<i>Were you there when ...</i> Mary anointed Jesus' feet
Tuesday of Holy Week March 26, 7pm	John 12:20-36	<i>Were you there when ...</i> Jesus predicted His death
Wednesday of Holy Week March 27, 7pm	John 13:1 – 17	<i>Were you there when ...</i> He washed His disciples' feet
Maundy Thursday March 28, 7pm	Matthew 26: 36 – 45 or Luke 22: 39 – 46 or Mark 14: 32 – 42	<i>Were you there when ...</i> in agony He prayed
Good Friday 9:00	Mark 15: 1 – 15 or Matthew 27: 11 – 26 or Luke 23: 2,3, 18 -25 or John 18: 29 – 19: 16	<i>Were you there when ...</i> they shouted Crucify Him!
9:45	Mark 15:16 or Matthew 27: 27 - 31	<i>Were you there when ...</i> they crowned our king with thorns
10:00	Mark 15: 21 – 32 or Matthew 27: 33 – 34 or Luke 23: 33 or John 19: 17 -24	<i>Were you there when ...</i> they nailed Him to the tree
11:15	Mark 15: 33 - 41 or Matthew 27: 45 – 56 or Luke 23: 44 – 49 or John 19: 29 - 30	<i>Were you there when ...</i> He died to save our souls
Holy Saturday 5pm	Mark 15: 42 – 47 or Matthew 27:57-66 or Luke 23: 50 – 56 or John 19:38-42	<i>Were you there when ...</i> they laid Him in the tomb
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:00 Morning Service 8:30 Evening Service 6:30pm	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12 or Matthew 28: 1 – 10 or Mark 16: 1 - 8	<i>Were you there when ...</i> God raised Him from the dead

Some suggestions

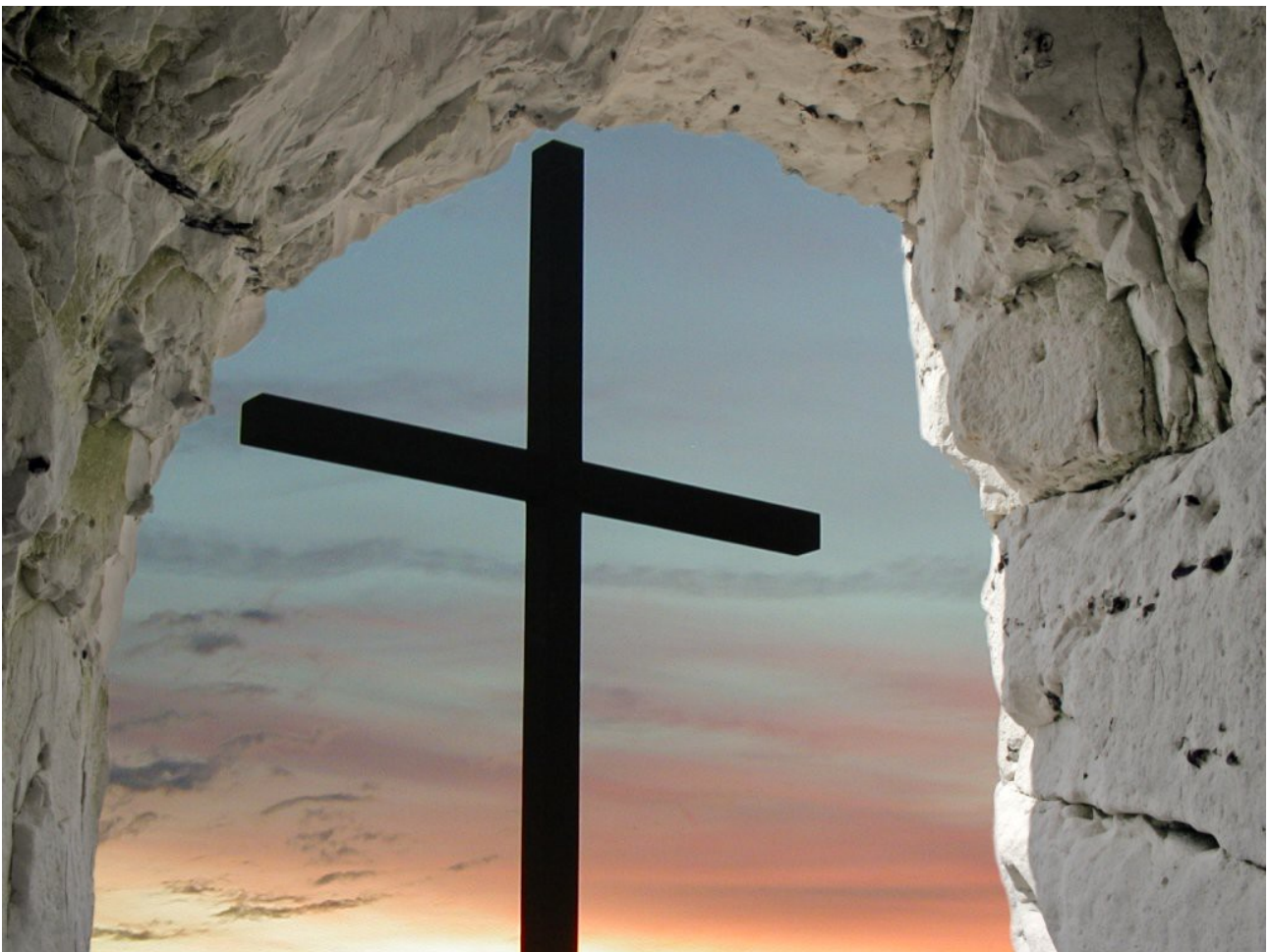
Consider changing your normal devotional pattern over Holy Week, just to remind yourself that this is a special time. Perhaps wake up a little earlier, even just 10 minutes earlier, to pray or read or silently just to remember.....it's Holy Week.

Use the themes for each day to permeate your thoughts all through the day...perhaps set an alarm on your cell phone to buzz every few hours in order to remind you to remember.....it's Holy Week.

Use some or all of the readings set for each day and listen for the LORD's still, small voice speaking into your heart.

Sing the hymn on the inside page each day of Holy Week

Think about what the picture below means for you at this particular moment in your life



Some Important Information

Mon-Thur: Services on Monday to Thursday evenings start at 7pm

Wed: Please bring a hand towel (or a few) to the Wednesday evening service

Good Friday: Please note that the service is divided into four 45 minute slots

Sat: During the Remembrance service there is opportunity to bring a flower (or flowers) to the Communion rail. Please bring a flower (or flowers) if you would like to do this.

Sun: In the event of rain, the Sunrise service takes place in the Sanctuary