

Holy Week 2011

Saint George's Round Church

This is the most solemn but also the most joyous week of the Church Year. Our attention is focused on the suffering, dying and rising of Jesus Christ. As we follow our Lord's journey to the Cross, we ourselves enter into the power and significance of his death and resurrection. We are not bystanders, but participants.

We invite you to join us.

Come and follow the Jerusalem donkey through our neighbourhood on **Palm Sunday** as we remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday evenings, we gather to hear the Gospel story of the passion (Christ's suffering) and receive Holy Communion.

Wednesday evening we experience the desolation of Christ's abandonment at Tenebrae.

On **Maundy Thursday** there is foot washing, the commemoration of the Last Supper, stripping of the altar, and an all-night Prayer Vigil.



*Christ on the Cross between the
Two Thieves, 1526,
Albrecht Altdorfer.*

On **Good Friday** we gather at 10 am for the most informal worship of the week: the Stations of the Cross. From 12 noon-3 pm with meditations on Christ's Seven Last Words from the cross by seven parishioners.

Easter Eve, we begin in darkness and end in the Divine Light. We enter the Mystery.

Easter Morning, the parish gathers to receive the risen Christ in the Sacrament and to know him in community.

*Alleluia!
Christ is Risen!*

Saint George's Anglican Church • 2222 Brunswick Street • Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 2Z3
Rector: The Reverend George Westhaver • Interim Choir Director: Eszter Horvath

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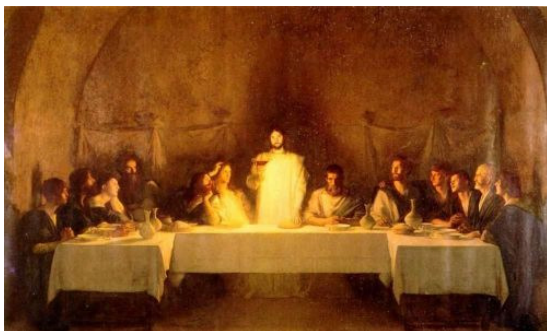
We believe that the Passion of the Lord and his bursting from the tomb have universal implications. The whole created order, including humanity, in all times and in all places, has been brought into a new relationship with our Creator. The dying and rising of Jesus brought about a 'new creation' and is the source of our Christian hope. As we follow Jesus' journey to the Cross, we ourselves enter into the powerlessness of a life sacrificed for others. We come to know the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection, as he confronts the sin, disaster and death of our own times with the same self-giving love that Calvary proclaims.

Which services should I attend?

Read about these services and pray about your participation. While attending the entirety of Holy Week Services can truly be an opportunity for deep worship and conversion of our hearts, it will not be helpful unless we come prepared to enter fully and willingly into this worship. If you are unable or do not choose to attend all of the Holy Week Services, you might consider reading the Gospel set out in the Prayer Book for each day so that, for you, the narrative of these days may not be broken.

Some of our Holy Week Services are short, some are very long. We hope the descriptions in this booklet may help you decide which services to attend. May God speak to your heart and make you his own in his own way.

*The Last Supper,
P. A. Dangan-Bouweret*



Which services should children attend?

Holy Week, with its many dramatic events and rites, is a good time to acquaint children with the great mysteries of Jesus' death and resurrection. **There are some services which children are especially encouraged to attend.**

Palm Sunday begins with the blessing of palms and a street procession. Adults and children of the other congregations in our neighbourhood are invited to join us. We meet at the church at 9:30 am. As the procession ends (just before 10:30), we return to the church for Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday starts with the "Foot Washing", followed by a joyous celebration of the institution of the Lord's Supper. As the tone of the service turns somber, the Altar and church are stripped and the church is left bare. We leave the church in silent darkness. You are welcome to come for even a few moments of silent prayer during the all night vigil.

On **Good Friday** we follow Jesus through the Stations of the Cross and create an Easter Garden around his tomb. This service is brief and informal.

Easter Sunday Holy Communion – This is the end of our Holy Week journey and it is wonderful for the children to see and hear for themselves the joy of Jesus' resurrection and to know that he will be with us always. **Easter egg decorating and an egg hunt will take place as a part of Sunday School. All welcome!** Care for infants and toddlers will be available as always.

These services will be described in more detail in the pages that follow.



Entry into Jerusalem, 12th Century Mosaic.

**PALM
SUNDAY**
**Street Procession &
Choral Holy
Communion**
9:30 am

We gather in the Round Church with people of all ages from our neighbouring churches – St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Cornwallis Street Baptist Street, and Brunswick Street United Church. We begin our worship by hearing the account of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when palm branches (representing victory) were laid before his path. Branches of palm are blessed and distributed. A Jerusalem donkey will accompany the children, who will lead the procession around the neighbourhood. We visit each church for praise and prayer and each congregation leaves the procession to carry on with their own Sunday worship as we reach their church. (Morning Prayer will be said in the Round Church for those who do not take part in the street procession.) We ourselves return to St. George's for Holy Communion. At the Gospel Lesson, the mood shifts dramatically as we hear the account of Jesus' sudden rejection by the same people who had earlier hailed him as king. The Holy Communion takes on the solemnity and severity of the Passion (suffering of our Lord). Our Holy Week has begun! *(Be sure to watch the weather and dress warmly. This is one of the longer services of our Holy Week observances.)*

HOLY MONDAY & Holy TUESDAY

Choral Holy Communion, with a small choir & meditation

7:00 pm

These are simple and profound times of worship. There will be a small choir, but no organ accompaniment. The Passion of our Lord according to St. Mark is read and a meditation is offered.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Evening Prayer & Said Holy Communion

5:30 pm

At Holy Communion we begin to read the Passion of our Lord according to St. Luke.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Tenebrae

7:00 pm

Tenebrae (Latin for 'darkness') is a service that combines the ancient monastic offices of Matins and Lauds, as prescribed for each of the last three days of Holy Week. The service consists of three sets of Antiphons, Psalms, Lessons and responses (three nocturnes of Matins), followed by the Psalms and Canticles that comprise Lauds. The series of these is intended to reflect the mind of Christ as his Passion unfolds.

Twenty-five candles are lighted at the beginning of the service, which correspond to the numbers of the twelve Prophets and the twelve Apostles, with one candle for Our Lord. The name of the triangular Tenebrae 'hearse', upon which the candles are placed, is derived from the Latin word for the large rake which is used as a harrow. We are reminded of Christ's "harrowing of Hell", his reclaiming of souls for salvation.

During the singing of the Office of Tenebrae, the candles are extinguished one by one, until only one light remains. This one is not extinguished, but is hidden from our sight. The gradual extinguishing of light represents for us the darkness closing about Our Lord during his Passion, and the darkness that came over the world with his death.

At the end of the service, a noise is made, symbolizing the despair of the disciples at the betrayal of Christ, the confusion of Nature at his death, and the veil of the Temple being torn in two. After this noise, the hidden candle is brought back; although Christ seemed to have been separated from us in his death, his resurrection shows that only this death could heal the rift between God and his people. The bonds of death are loosed through Christ's harrowing of Hell and rising in triumph.

This is one of the longer services of our Holy Week observances.



Three woodcuts from The Large Passion, c. 1510, Albrecht Durer.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER

The three great days, together called the Paschal Triduum, begin at sunset on Maundy Thursday, which is really the beginning of Good Friday (the Jewish day begins at sunset, and the first Christians were all Jews). It continues through Easter Eve, with its prolongation of joy through our Sunday worship celebrations.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Foot Washing, Choral Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar

7:30 pm

We meet at 7:30 pm to commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper Jesus held with his chosen disciples. The New Testament tells us that it was at a Passover meal such as this that Jesus instituted the Holy Communion, transforming the Jewish sacred meal commemorating their deliverance from Egypt into the undying memorial of his Passion and our ultimate deliverance from the slavery of sin and death. In this simple rite, the significance of all history is brought to focus in what happened to a man of flesh and blood, who was also the Divine Son of God. He went about doing good and raising up all that was fallen or falling. On this night in which he was betrayed, Jesus, sitting at table with his closest friends, took bread, blessed, broke, and gave, saying: "This is my body which is given for you." And so with the cup, saying: "This is my blood which is shed for you." Body broken and blood shed remain even today the ultimate signs of love and human freedom.

What happened that night in the upper room points back to what happened to the Chosen People and points forward to what will happen to Christ. Just as a people was 'taken' by God, 'blessed' as his Chosen People, 'broken' in exile, war and captivity, so was Jesus 'given' as Lord and Saviour to the world. The words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper – the taking,

giving thanks (or blessing), breaking, and giving – also spell out what happens to all who believe in him, as we allow God's will to be worked out in our lives. This is the mystery of our faith.

Maundy Thursday is dominated by the Lord's Supper, which is the most joyous and festive of the entire year, even in the midst of Holy Week and the beginning of the Triduum. The Holy Communion is preceded by the ceremony of Foot Washing, as twelve members of the congregation come forward to have their feet washed. "Maundy" is an old English form of the Latin word "mandatum", which means "commandment". The name "Maundy Thursday" recollects the words of Jesus just after he had washed the feet of his apostles: "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another." Christian charity must first manifest itself within the community of the Church which is the Body of Christ, and as if that were not difficult enough, it must overflow in service to a world which "God so loved".

After we receive Holy Communion, the celebrant takes the remaining consecrated bread and wine to the Altar of Repose that has been prepared at the back of the church. Following the final hymn, the Altar is stripped and the church laid bare. We remember the abandonment of Our Lord. A sharp noise reminds us of the moment of Christ's betrayal. After a few moments, the account of the Agony in the Garden is read from St. Matthew's Gospel. *The prayer vigil begins immediately.*

All-Night Vigil on Maundy Thursday 9 pm – 7:30 am

Members of the congregation are encouraged to remain in the bare main body of the church and pray in silence before they leave. Others may wish to pray before the Altar of Repose, as an aid to loving contemplation of Our Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. The door of the church facing the hall will remain open throughout the night and until the 8 am Holy Communion, so that you may come for prayer and devotion at any time on this holy night.

We pray, by God's special grace and favour, that we may know the joy of watching and praying with Our Lord Jesus Christ. He submitted his will entirely in obedience to his Father. As he came to know his freedom in giving his life for others, so may we come to the church this evening and pray for the salvation of all people, resolving to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice on their behalf. Our sacrifice can be nothing more (or less) than an offering of thanksgiving for the redeeming love he has shown for us in his passion and death. We can offer only the same love with which he embraces us. The Vigil concludes with Morning Prayer and the Litany at 7:30am.

GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer & Litany

7:30

Most Anglicans do not receive Holy Communion on Good Friday, but rather enter fully into the "Goodness" of this day through prayerful meditation and contemplation.

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday (especially suitable for children and families but all are welcome)

10 am

The Stations are a series of fourteen pictures, designed for devotional purposes, which show significant incidents in the last journey of Christ, from Pilate's house to his tomb. This is a very common, powerful and universal Christian devotion, especially popular during Lent and Passiontide. It is the custom to visit the Stations in order, praying and meditating on each event in Our Lord's journey to his death. All who attend this service are encouraged to participate in this simple and dramatic representation of the "Via Dolorosa", or Way of Suffering. At the end of the service, the children prepare a table top tomb in an Easter garden and roll a stone across the mouth of the cave.

The Three Hour Service

12-3 pm

Today we gather to remember the sacrifice that Our Lord Jesus Christ made for us and for the whole world. We hope that everyone will come for all or part of this service. Seven members of the congregation will lead us with meditations on each of Jesus' seven last words from the Cross. The beautiful music sung by our choir and the hymns in which we will all join reflect the solemnity of this holy day. Moments of silent meditation are provided throughout the service. *(If you are arriving or leaving during the service, please do so quietly and during the singing of hymns, if possible. Please use the Brunswick Street entrance unless you are unable to climb the stairs.)*



The Body of Dead Christ in the Tomb, 1521. Hans Holbein, the younger.

HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer & Ante-Communion

10 am

We do not receive Holy Communion during the day. This is the real Sabbath, or “Day of Rest,” as Jesus lies in the tomb. This is our annual corporate service for the Altar Guild, but all parishioners are encouraged to attend. Following the service, we gather as a parish to clean, wash, scrub and polish, to make ready for our Easter celebration.

Come and lend a hand!
Children can help too!

The Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

10:30 pm

The Easter Vigil is a very ancient and moving celebration of the Christian Church. At the beginning of the service, a homily will help us to focus our thought and prayers. The lights are then extinguished, and the Vigil continues. We begin in darkness and move into light, just as the long night of sin and death is brought to an end by the Resurrection – the rising of the True Sun, Jesus Christ. The service begins with the lighting and blessing of the ‘New Fire’: “Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with a new hope; in this paschal feast may we so burn with heavenly desires, that we may attain to the feast of eternal light.” The priest then takes the great Paschal Candle, traces the cross in its wax, adorns it with Alpha and Omega, adds the current year, and five grains of incense for the five wounds suffered by Our Lord. The Paschal Candle is lit from the

New Fire and becomes the focal point of our praise – an eloquent symbol of the risen Saviour. In procession, the Deacon carries the great candle up the aisle through the darkened church. Our hand candles are lit. The light spreads. At the front of the church, the Exsultet, an ancient and beautiful chant, is sung. Its theme is the overcoming of the darkness of this world by the light of Christ. It summons all creation to rejoice.

Next, four readings from the Old Testament help us to recall God’s mighty acts in ancient times and these prophecies foster our own sense of hope and anticipation of the coming Messiah. We listen to the Creation story, and the story of the People of Israel escaping from Egypt through the Red Sea on their way to the Promised Land. Following the Old Testament readings, we renew our Baptismal vows, thinking of St. Paul’s words describing Baptism as “a burial with Christ and a rising with him to new life.” (Sometimes a Baptism takes place at this point.)



The Risen Christ. c. 1555, Tintoretto

Finally, the church and the Altar are dressed gloriously for this Queen of Seasons, and the First Eucharist of Easter is celebrated in the early hours of the morning with great joy.

*Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!*

EASTER SUNDAY

“Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.” “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive until God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Holy Communion

8 am

This simple said service reflects the joyous Easter spirit, with its moving Scripture readings in the midst of the gloriously dressed Altar and beautifully decorated Church.

Procession & Choral Holy Communion

10:30 am

On Easter morning, we gather in joyous celebration of the Christian “Feast of Feasts”. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has brought us out of the darkness and sorrow of sin into the glorious light of his redeeming love.

In Sunday School, along with their lesson, the children will decorate Easter Eggs, and take part in a hunt for eggs. All children are welcome. A few parishioners will be on duty in the Nursery at the back of the church, where

infants and toddlers may be cared for during the service.

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Easter Monday & Tuesday

Please see the separate sheet detailing the special service on Easter Monday for the celebration of 250 years of the Little Dutch Church's dedication as the Parish of St. George.

Easter Monday 10:30 am

Choral Holy Communion at the LDC followed by a reception in the parish hall

Easter Tuesday 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer & Said Holy Communion

Everyday Prayer & Scripture: Daily Offices and Bible readings for Holy Week

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer will be said at 7 am and 5:30 pm Mon-Thurs (MP at 7:30 am Fri & 10 am Sat), in the Round Church. These services are especially powerful as the Old Testament lessons are read which point to the passion and death of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament

readings, St. John focuses on the events leading up to the Gospel for Good Friday. We recite the psalms and find ourselves giving expression to our deepest emotions, a quiet and meditative opportunity. If you cannot attend, you are encouraged to read the Scripture lessons and Psalms each morning and evening, at home or at your workplace.

Morning Prayer			
Monday	Hosea 13: 1-14	John 14: 1-14	Psalm 94
Tuesday	Isaiah 42: 1-9	John 15: 1-16	Psalm 71
Wednesday	Numbers 21: 4-9	John 16: 1-15	Psalm 109
Thursday	Lam. 1: 1-14	John 17	Psalms 40, 41
Friday	Genesis 22: 1-18	John 18: 1-32	Psalm 22
Saturday	Zech. 9: 9-12	1 Peter 2: 11-end	Psalms 16, 30
Evening Prayer			
Monday	Hosea 14	John 14:15-end	Psalm 69
Tuesday	Wisdom 2:1, 12-end	John 15: 17-end	Psalm 79
Wednesday	Lev. 16: 2-24	John 16: 16-end	Psalms 120,140
Thursday	Lam. 3: 1-33	John 13: 1-35	Psalms 116, 117
Friday	Isaiah 50: 4-10	John 19: 38-end	Psalm 88
Saturday	Job 19: 21-27	John 2: 13-22	Psalm 27