



## Sapphire Coast Uniting Church 'Lockdown' Newsletter

Week Starting 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Welcome** to the second of our weekly emails, keeping our congregation connected during the Corona Virus shutdown. As we won't be printing our regular pewslip, this will be part of our approach to keep our folk connected. Contributions and items for inclusion can be forwarded to Jeff or Tony.

### **Birthdays next week:**

No listed birthdays this week – **Instead:**

**Congratulations to John & Jeanette Osborne who celebrated, (very quietly and without infringing social distancing rules), their 46th wedding anniversary last Monday.**



Remember that day light saving ends this weekend. Wind your clocks back one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.

### **Elders**

We are fortunate to have a strong group of Elders to help us through this time of 'disconnection'. Many folk will greatly miss the regular social contact that our weekly service provided. During this time it is even more important for Elders to ensure regular contact continues with the small group in their charge. A weekly phone call or even a video call, will let people know we still have them in our thoughts, even if we can't call in personally. (An up to date list of Elders groups is on the notice board in the church). Many of our congregation do not have email addresses recorded on our contacts list. Please check when you call to see if there is now a valid email, and advise Secretary John if so.

## Your Weekly Offerings

While our church services are on hold, and we can't meet in person, our regular expenses will still need to be paid. In addition, we will be without our hall rental income for some time and the Op Shop will also be closed for the shutdown period. We rely on your weekly offerings to help meet our ongoing expenses. The Church Council Executive are encouraging the congregation to use direct debit (Giving Direct) if possible, as your mode of regular financial giving; if you would like to set up Giving Direct, please contact treasurer Jeff for details.

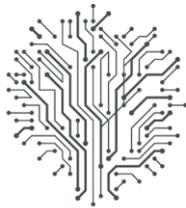
We understand that not everyone can do this and for those of you who prefer to give your offerings in the plate, please could I request that you continue to put your offerings aside in an envelope, that can be placed in the collection when normal activities eventually resume.

## Lectionary readings this week:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Matthew 21: 1-11

Philippians 2: 5-11



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

**Saltbush – Uniting the Scattered Community**

<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/the-word-around-the-bush/>

**Saltbush** has online resources accessible online at “The Word around the Bush” and is available for all to use—this could be used as a reference point for people in their own homes, if they choose not to attend worship, or if such gatherings are put on hold for a time.

(If you use this, you might consider providing some financial support)

## Holy Week at Home



Each year, the Christian church reviews the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection in a series of special days called Holy Week. The story of Jesus' suffering and death is difficult for people

of all ages; still, it is at the heart of the Christian faith. Take time to experience the emotions of these Holy Week events together with others.



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

### **Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11**

In some congregations this is called Palm/Passion Sunday because the service begins with a telling of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and then later, the entire story of Jesus' death is read, which is sometimes called "the passion." The Jewish people in Jesus' time had been waiting over 500 years for a king. The Hebrew prophets had said God's promised messiah would govern Israel and also bring peace on earth and reconciliation with God. Many in the crowd expected Jesus to lead a revolt to overthrow the Romans and re-establish, the kingdom of Israel, but the crowds would learn that Jesus was very different than the messiah they expected.

The story of Palm Sunday is filled with imagery from the Hebrew Scriptures. **Read Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:26-27.** These are stories that people in Jesus' time would have known. What do you remember about Palm Sunday services you have attended? What was said and done there?

### **Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17, 31b-35**



Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April

On this night, during a celebration of the Passover, Jesus knelt to wash the feet of his disciples. After this meal Jesus also shared the last supper with his disciples - a meal we still remember and celebrate today in Holy Communion.

**Read John 13:34-35.** This is Jesus' commandment to his disciples and to us. How are you keeping this commandment? Where do you see other people showing love as Jesus asks? What else could you or others do to show that they are followers of Jesus?

## Good Friday John 18:1—19:42



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

For Christians, Good Friday is one of the saddest days of the year. The same people who had shouted "Hosanna!" on Palm Sunday now cried "Crucify him!" This day of sorrow reminds us that even in impossible situations God can bring life and hope.

Take some time today and tomorrow to read **John 18:1-19:42**.

What parts of this story stand out for you? What do Jesus' words and actions tell you about him? What questions do you have? Talk with your friends or family about them or use outlets like writing, drawing, music, prayer, or movement to express your thoughts and feelings.



### **Table Grace**

*First the seed and then the grain  
Thank you, God for sun and rain  
First the flour and then the bread  
Thank you, God that we are fed  
Thank you, God for all your care  
Help us, God, to share and share  
Amen*

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees,  
And looks to God alone;  
Laughs at impossibilities,  
And cries, "It shall be done"

**Charles Wesley**

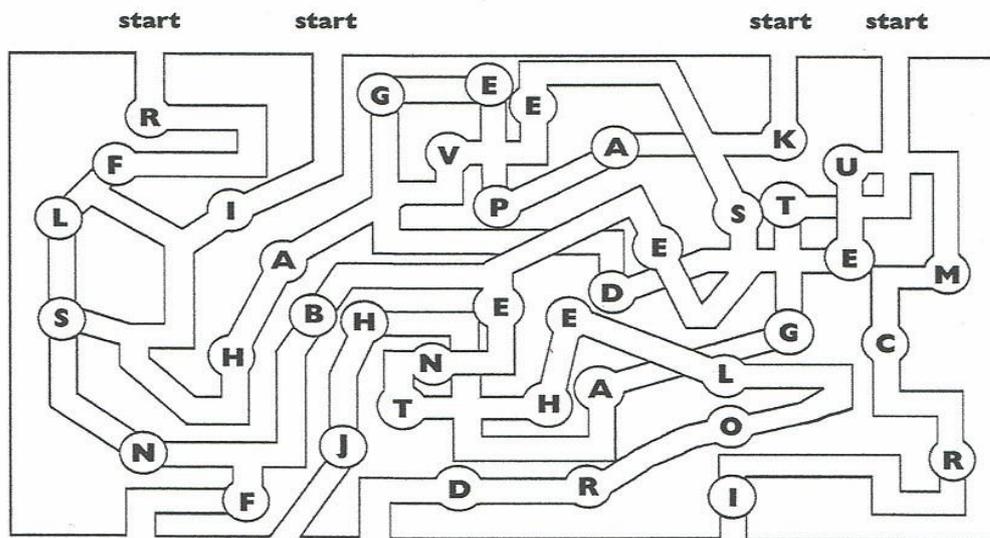
Something for us "oldies" to do not just kids.



K I D S K L I P S

### What Did Mary Say to the Disciples?

To find the answer, start at one of the openings. Make your way through the maze, writing the letters in the blanks as you pass them. If you run into a blocked path (line) you must start over at another opening (see John 20:18).



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Keep your "distance " and keep safe Ed.