



**An Update from Brendon, Holy Week Edition!  
Friday, April 3, 2020**

Dear Emmanuel Family,

This coming Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, a week in which we observe the last days of Jesus's earthly life. On Sunday, we reflect on his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey to the acclaim of the crowds, and we ponder his claim to be king in the face of conflicting expectations. Over the course of the week, we will have opportunity to "walk" the Stations of the Cross and ponder the events of his last days. On Thursday evening, we will join the disciples at the Last Supper and listen to his last words to them. On Friday, we observe his death and consider its meaning for us and for our world.

And because we have been exiled to our homes, unable to gather in person, we will do this all virtually. Services and resources for each of these "gatherings" will be sent out by email on the day of, as well as posted to our website. To access them, you can click [here](#), or go to the website [www.ebap.ca](http://www.ebap.ca) and click on the "Holy Week" banner. As well, some ideas for family activities during Holy week, including ideas for palms, will be available on our website.

**We also have palm branches as a tangible reminder of this Sunday's celebration, and would like to make them available to you. We have arranged a curbside pickup this Saturday afternoon, between 1:00 pm and 4:00pm. Simply drive up to the back door (at the west entrance) and wait. A bag of palm branches will be brought out and placed in a cast iron planter. Once the delivery person has returned inside the church, feel free to get out of your vehicle and take the bag of palms. Each bag will contain four palm branches. They can be split in half if you require more than four branches.**

And yes, Easter celebration will follow next Sunday – a different sort of Easter as well. But the reality to which our Easter celebrations point is with us every day. Christ is Risen and is present with us through his Spirit. So while we grieve the loss of our physical gatherings, we do not grieve with out hope! Our hope is in our Risen and Reigning Lord.

However, may I encourage us to not rush ahead to Easter Sunday. May I encourage us to live into the events of this coming week, to linger over the story, as the darkness swirls around Jesus, as he heads toward his death, and be reminded that we have a Savior and King who lived our life, who experienced all of our losses, and who is able to empathize with us in every area of darkness and death that we face, including our current crisis. He has defeated darkness and death, and he lives with us to strengthen and encourage us in our experiences of them. May we be filled with his light and life and may we be renewed this week in faith and hope and love.

Thanks to those of you who responded to my questions about how you are doing last week. I welcome further updates, or seeing you on zoom for prayer. Thanks also, for your faithfulness in supporting the ministry of our church through your prayers and through your giving. If you are not giving online, please consider doing so. You can contact the office ([bookkeeper@ebap.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@ebap.ca)) for a code to do so. Or you can drop off your envelopes in the church's mailbox at the front

entrance at any time. Or, if you are unable to get out and would like it to be picked up, please contact the office and we will make arrangements to do so in a safe way.

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Your brother in Christ,

Brendon