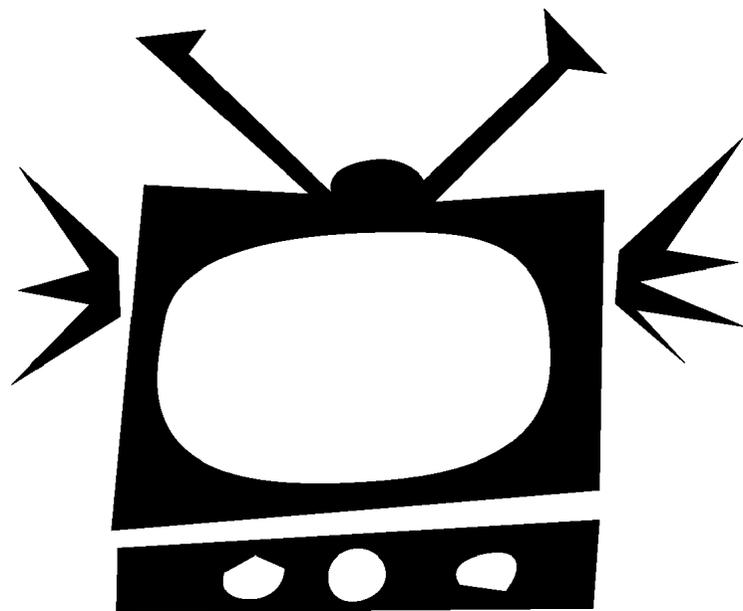


## INTERACTIVE EASTER – ROSEFIELD UNITING CHURCH – 10 APRIL 2010

Station	Activity	Location	Equipment
Welcome	2 hosts - handout	Morning	Handouts
1. Video	Video loop – Gospel of Matthew	Tea area	Data projector, screen, laptop, Belkin Hub, 5 headphones
2. Clay	Making Palm Sunday symbols		Clay, tablecloth, aprons, boards, bowls
3. Music	Live music	Church	Piano, mics, PA
4. Drama	Mary at the Cross		
5. Light	Lighting floating candles	Church Foyer	wading pool, black plastic, candles, star lights, book
6. Dark Room	Video, pinhole art gallery, art work	Creche	Shoebboxes with images, paintings, laptop, data projector, amp, candles, screen
7. Food	Making pretzels	Kitchen	
8. Paint	Video, painting an image of Jesus on a tile	Room 4	Tiles, paints, brushes, bowls, smocks, images of Jesus, iPhone
9. Stories	Storyteller	Room 1	Childrens Story Bibles
10. Hands	Rubbing lotion into hands		Lotion, candle
11. Cards	Making Cards to give away		Card, scissors, glue, photos, pens
12. Seeds	Plant flower seed in cup	Room 2	Pots, dirt, bulbs
13. Poem	Make a poem or prayer response to Easter		Magnetic poetry, table
14. Drama	Drama - Mary at the Tomb	Youth	
15. Cave	Writing secrets and hopes	Room	black & white pens, torches, black cloth, pins, iPod, speaker
16. Surprise	Fish fingers & bread	BBQ Area	BBQ, bread, fish fingers, sauce, cool drinks, tea coffee
	Face painting		
	Give an Easter egg		Easter egg



**Video**



clay

# Hosanna! Hooray! God bless the King of Israel.

John 12:12-13

*They took palm branches and went out to greet him.  
They shouted, "Hosanna! God bless the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel.*

---

Jesus and his friends came into Jerusalem,  
and were met by a crowd cheering and waving palm branches.

He came not as a Warrior but as a Prince of Peace.  
Instead of a war-horse, he rode a simple donkey.

People welcomed him as someone who was not like other leaders.  
He was known as a healer, a teacher, a friend.

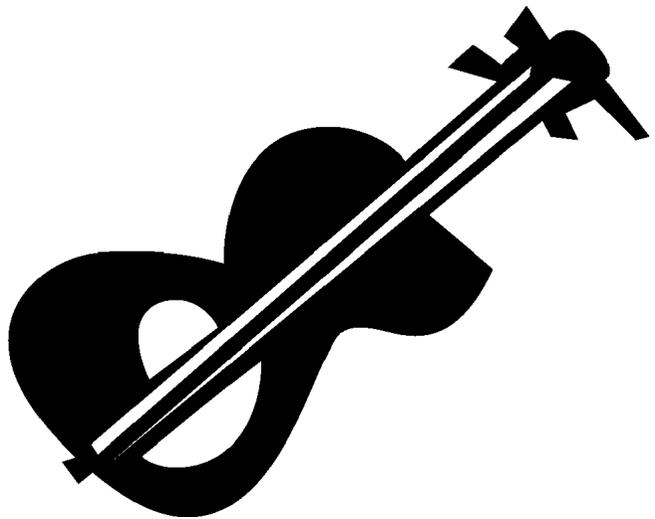
Watch and listen to the video of Palm Sunday.  
Imagine what it would have been like to be in the crowd that day

- to hear the cheering
- to see people jump and shout and sing
- to wave a palm branch in your hand
- to see Jesus riding past

How would you have felt?  
Would you have told your friends?  
Would you have tried to find Jesus in town during the week?

Take a moment to imagine.  
Ask yourself, "what would it be like if Jesus came to our city today?"

Make something with the clay to remind you of this story.



**MUSIC**



**Drama**

## Mary at the Cross

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a middle-aged woman. Mary is at the Cross, thinking back about Jesus life.

It's time to sleep, my little one. You are so tired. The night has been so long for you... for all of us.

Who would have thought our lives would have ended up like this? Not Joseph and I, that's for sure. Until that angel came... all those years ago. It seems like a lifetime.

Yes, that was a night of pain, too - the night you were born in Bethlehem. Not quite how I had imagined having my child.

It's funny how the years change things. Even now people tell the story as if that shed behind the inn was a beautiful place. How filthy it was! And the smell of the animals made me sick to the stomach. I wanted nothing more than to get out of there to somewhere clean and quiet. We felt like refugees in Joseph's own home town.

But when they placed you in my arms, nothing else mattered except that you were there with me. I know now that's how all mother's feel. My son, how I wish I could take you in my arms now to ease your pain.

We did end up becoming refugees. Those visitors from the east who came later when you were a toddler. They were the ones who warned us about Herod wanting to kill you. And so we fled to Egypt. I still feel a chill when I think of that place where our ancestors suffered in slavery for so long.

What is it about you that threatens kings and emperors? First Herod the Great and his son when you were a baby, and now Herod Antipas. Why does what you promise make them want to kill you? Is love such a dangerous thing?

That family don't want anyone else to even dream of having power in our land. I'm not sure who is worse, them or Romans like that Pilate. Perhaps they don't want their world to change. Perhaps you make them see themselves as they really are - you certainly did that for all of us. You had such a way of stripping away our pretensions, even as a child.

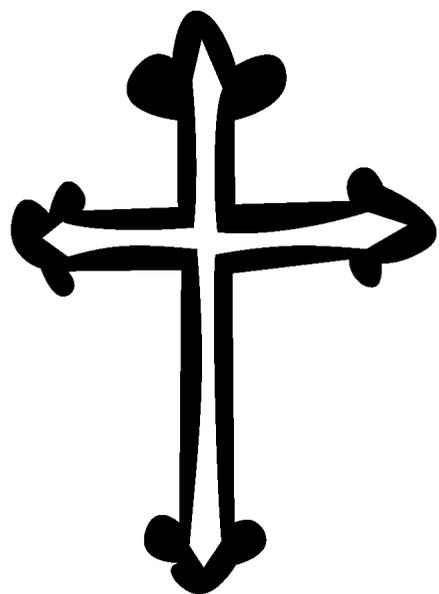
Maybe it's that people just don't want to believe that God is greater than they are. I don't know.

How I wish you could have stayed a baby. Life would have been much simpler...perhaps. But we all have to grow up and fulfil our calling. My son, was God calling you to go this far for him? To give your own life? For what? For us?

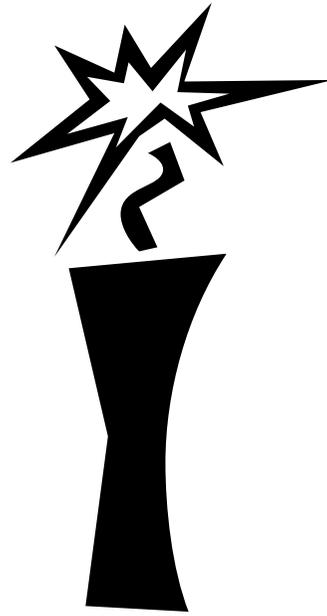
Our God has never let us down, not back then and not now. Even though it tears out my heart to see you on this Cross, I know that my God, your Father, holds you in his arms right now.

It's time to sleep now, my little one, my little prince. Your long night is nearly over. Be not afraid. Morning will come. Morning will come soon. Now rest in peace.

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**Symbols**



L i g h t

Peace be with you.

John 20:19-22

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

---

The Risen Christ brings the promise of peace – not the promise of a trouble-free life, but the promise of peace even in the midst of trouble, of hope in the midst of struggle.

As we receive the gift of Peace, Christ sends us to be peace-makers.

The Holy Spirit makes us channels of peace.

Light a candle and say a prayer for peace

- for a person
- for a situation
- for our world.

Stations of Hope

**D**  
**Dark**

A large, bold, black letter 'D' is positioned at the top center. Inside the 'D', there is a white silhouette of a person standing in a doorway, looking out. The person is facing right, with their hands on their hips. The doorway is also white, creating a strong contrast with the black background of the letter.

Jesus said:

"Take, eat. This is my body"

"Peace I leave with you.  
My peace I give to you."

"Could you not stay awake  
with me one hour?"

"Your will be done"

"I am thirsty"

"My God, My God,  
why have you forsaken me?"

"It is finished"

# START HERE.

Lift each box gently.

Look through the pinhole  
to see a painting of Jesus.

Take a moment  
to explore the details.

What can you see?  
What is happening?  
How do you feel?

Place the box gently  
back where it was.

Move left to see  
each of the boxes in turn.



**F** **o** **o** **d**

# Pretzels

Here is a story of the origin of the Pretzel.

In 610 AD an Italian monk invents pretzels as a reward to children who learn their prayers. He calls the strips of baked dough, folded to resemble arms crossing the chest, 'preiola' ("little rewards")

Pretzels were regarded as having religious significance for both ingredients and shape. Pretzels made with a simple recipe using only flour and water could be eaten during Lent, when Christians were forbidden to eat eggs, lard, or dairy products such as milk and butter. As time passed, pretzels became associated with both Lent and Easter. Pretzels were hidden on Easter morning just as eggs are hidden today, and are particularly associated with Lent, fasting, and prayers before Easter.

Some countries in Europe make the "Palm pretzel" made for Palm Sunday celebrations. Sizes can range from 30 cm up to 1 metre and they can weigh up to 2.5 kg.

So today we make and eat Pretzels as a reminder

- that Lent is a time of putting aside some luxuries and focusing on God
  - to pray to God, with our thanks and our concerns
  - that people across the world in many countries, of many cultures, are celebrating Easter
- 

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## Mall Pretzels



Rated: ★★★★★

Submitted By: Jeannie Yee

Photo By: Allrecipes

Prep Time: 30 Minutes

Cook Time: 20 Minutes

Ready In: 3 Hours

Servings: 12

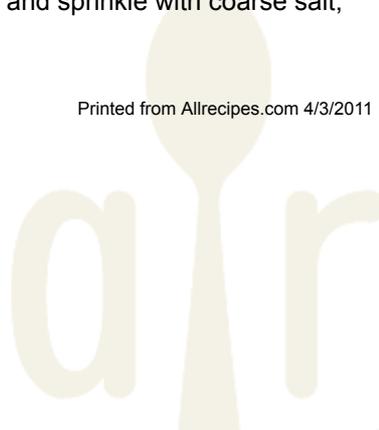
"Those big, soft pretzels rolled in coarse salt are yours to bake at home with basic bread ingredients you probably already have in your pantry."

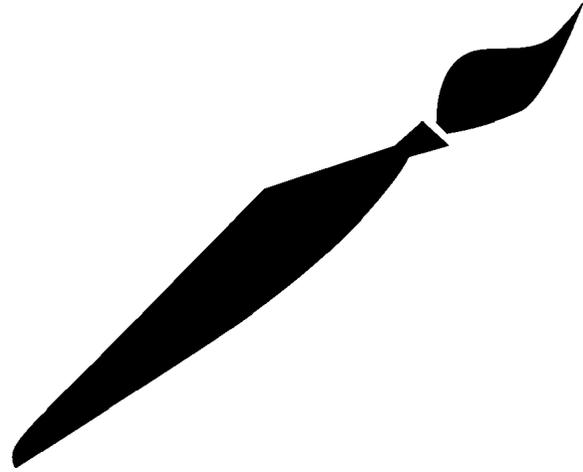
### INGREDIENTS:

1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast	1 cup bread flour
2 tablespoons brown sugar	2 cups warm water (110 degrees F /45 degrees C)
1 1/8 teaspoons salt	2 tablespoons baking soda
1 1/2 cups warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)	2 tablespoons butter, melted
3 cups all-purpose flour	2 tablespoons coarse kosher salt

### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large mixing bowl, dissolve the yeast, brown sugar and salt in 1 1/2 cups warm water. Stir in flour, and knead dough on a floured surface until smooth and elastic, about 8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, and turn to coat the surface. Cover, and let rise for one hour.
2. Combine 2 cups warm water and baking soda in an 8 inch square pan.
3. After dough has risen, cut into 12 pieces. Roll each piece into a 3 foot rope, pencil thin or thinner. Twist into a pretzel shape, and dip into the baking soda solution. Place on parchment covered cookie sheets, and let rise 15 to 20 minutes.
4. Bake at 450 degrees F (230 degrees C) for 8 to 10 minutes, or until golden brown. Brush with melted butter, and sprinkle with coarse salt, garlic salt or cinnamon sugar.





**P** **q** **i** **h** **t**

You are one with me,  
and I am one with you.

John 14:19-20

And because I live, you will live.  
Then you will know that I am one with the Father.  
You will know that you are one with me, and I am one with you.  
If you love me, you will do what I have said, and my Father will love you.  
I will also love you and show you what I am like.

---

When Jesus shared his last meal with his followers, he spoke of friendship – his friendship with them, and God’s love for them all.

They had shared wonderful times with him. Many of them were surprised that someone like Jesus would want to be their friend. They knew their mistakes, their doubts, their problems. Jesus made friends with all kinds of people whom others rejected.

Jesus showed them that God is always a God of love. God is always our friend, and that God promises to be with us always.

Jesus was telling them that even when they could no longer see him, he would still be with them in Spirit.

Think about what it is like to have Jesus as a friend.

Look at the pictures that people from around the world have painted of Jesus, remembering his love for all of us.

Paint your own picture of Jesus on one of the tiles, to remind you that Jesus is your friend always.

Come back later when its dry so you can take it home at put it in a special place.



**H  
a  
n  
d  
s**

# They bought spices to anoint him

Mark 16:1-2

*"When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene,  
and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices,  
so that they might go and anoint him."*

---

After he died and was buried, some of Jesus' friends stayed away.

They were afraid of what might happen, that they too might be arrested.

And yet, three women dared to approach the tomb. They brought perfumes to anoint his body – an offering of praise even in death.

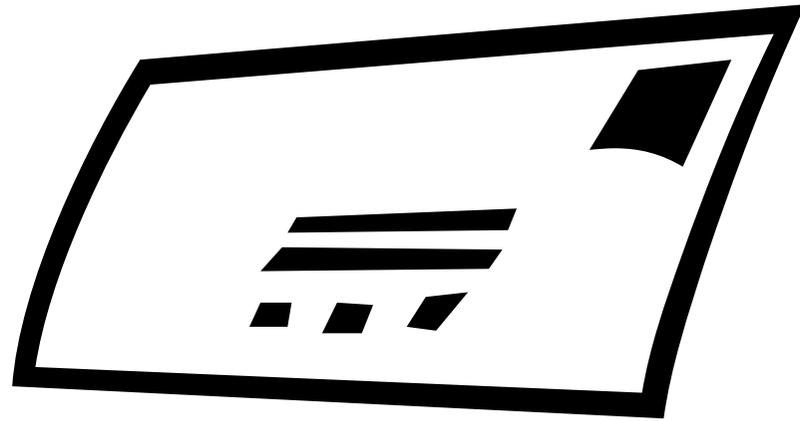
But the body they came to anoint was not there!

Once before, another woman had poured expensive oil on Jesus' feet.

Take a moment to rub some of the lotion into your hands.  
Look at your hands. Feel them.  
Reflect on the hands of the risen Jesus, whole yet wounded.

As you feel the smoothness and smell the fragrance,  
remember that Jesus comes to heal and to make us whole,  
to soothe and cleanse.

Feel the soothing presence of Christ.  
Sense that you are now part of his body,  
for he lives in us and with us today.  
And be thankful.



**Cards**

He has given us new life and a hope that lives on

1 Peter 1: 3-5.

God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. God has something stored up for you in heaven, where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear. You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day. Then he will save you, just as he always planned to do.

---

Jesus Christ is risen. Neither evil nor death could hold him.

He resisted evil not with evil but with the power of love.

God does not abandon him even on the Cross, even in the tomb.

God never abandons us, even when the way seems dark,

even when the door seems closed,

even when hope itself seems to have died.

God never abandons us.

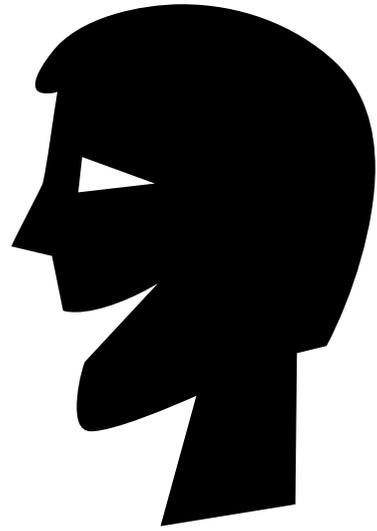
Make a card for someone you know who is in need of hope.

Cut out a picture and glue it onto a card.

Write a message of hope.

Take the card and give it with the promise of resurrection hope.

Stations of Hope



**Stories**



# POEMS



**Seeds**

# If it a seed dies, it bears much fruit

John 12:24-26

A grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat. If you love your life, you will lose it. If you give it up in this world, you will be given eternal life. If you serve me, you must go with me. My servants will be with me wherever I am. If you serve me, my Father will honor you.

---

Jesus told his followers that the way to live is to not only live for yourself, but to live for the sake of others.

His life and death show us what it means to truly give our lives for others.

Jesus showed that even death could not stop his love.

Hate could not stop his way of peace.

Fear could not stop his gift of hope.

We can choose lives that are giving.  
We can choose lives that are hopeful.  
We can choose lives that are peaceful.

Even if this means losing something -  
losing power, losing security, losing friends.  
For the sake of living the way of God's love.

Take a seed and plant it into to soil.  
The seed is buried, but in time we will see life.

Reflect on what you need to give up in order to live more fully.

Just as God does his work with this seed,  
trust that God will do his gentle work in your life  
of bringing peace, hope and love.



**D r a m a**

# Jesus said to her, "Mary".

John 20:16

*She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher)*

---

To a child who has never heard a sound before,  
the world opens up anew when they hear their name called.

Imagine Mary's face in that garden at dawn, hearing her name called  
by a voice she thought she would never hear again?

Mary had gone to the tomb and found it empty. She was sad and afraid.  
But her fear was left behind when Jesus called her name.

Jesus' rising shows us that God can conquer  
our fears and regrets,  
can turn despair to hope  
and death to new life.

Today this tomb can be a symbol for us  
- a leaving behind of fear, regret, despair  
- a stepping into hope, promise, newness  
knowing that God's love never lets us go, even in death.

Take a pen and step into the tomb.

- take a black pen and write on the wall a secret that you want to bury in the  
tomb, something to be freed from by God's love

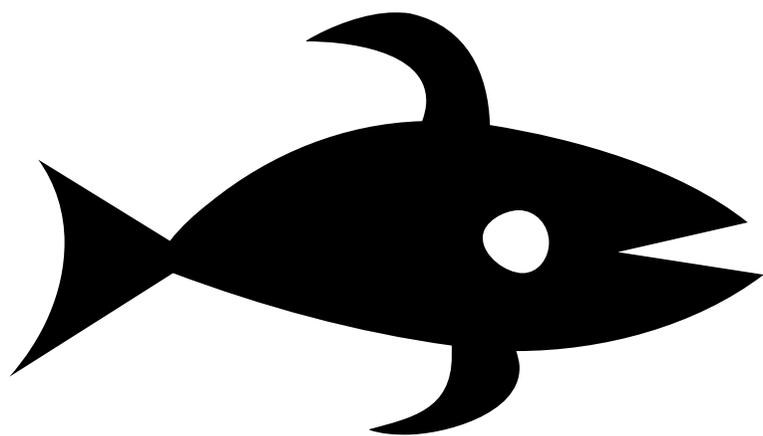
OR

- take a silver pen and write on the wall a message of hope – something you  
want to celebrate in the light of God's undying love.

Then step out of the tomb to the outdoors,  
and sense the risen Jesus in you and with you.



**Carve**



**Fish**

*Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them*

*John 21:11-12*

The risen Jesus appeared to his disciples, standing on the beach, while they were fishing. At first they didn't recognise him.

Then, just as he had done once before, he told them where to cast their nets. The nets came back full of large fish!

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast". None of them dared ask, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

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May the blessing of God surround you  
May angels and friends  
    share your journey  
May you be safeguarded,  
    loved and cherished  
May you walk on holy ground  
May people of faith inspire you  
May wisdom and justice empower you  
May you be wise and strong and creative  
May you celebrate life and hope  
May God's image grow within you  
May laughter and courage heal you  
May the Gospel of life sustain you  
All the days of your journey home

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And the Word  
became Flesh

Write an Easter poem or prayer

Jesus came and  
took the bread  
and gave it to them

John 21:11-12

Peace be with you.

John 20:19-22

He has given us  
new life and a hope  
that lives on

1 Peter 1: 3-5.

Jesus said to her,  
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John 20:16

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John 12:24-26



**Surprise**