Palm Sunday
April 10: “Triumph!” Mark 11:1-10 at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. No evening service. Enjoy our children’s choirs featured in our morning services at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Thursday Communion
April 14: at 7 p.m. You’re invited to come share in the Lord’s Supper and behold the One who came, not to be served, but to serve and give his life a ransom for many.

Good Friday
April 15: “Death” Mark 15:33-39 at 6 and 8 p.m. Journey with us to the cross. (Nursery and preschool at 6 pm).

Easter Sunday
April 17: “Life” Mark 16:1-8 at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Celebrate the Triumph of Jesus and enjoy a home-baked cinnamon roll and coffee from Five and Hoek. (Nursery at all services).

Kids’ Harbor Family Open Gym
Saturday, April 9, 9:30-11:30AM Kids from birth-5th grade, bring mom or dad to get their wiggles out, shoot hoops and bounce on an inflatable during this free open gym Saturday morning playdate. No registration needed, but parent supervision is required.
Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

—Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)
JESUS TURNS THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

To increase followers on social media, a solid promotion plan would probably revolve around perks and advantages for would-be followers. We would have all the right answers to that all-important question: How can I look my very best and what’s in it for me? We’d keep a lookout for influencers, and those with sway and leverage.

Not so Jesus. If you start to listen to what he said when he was on earth, you might think he wasn’t interested in crowds of followers, especially when he said things such as “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23) Or he would say the unexpected such as “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)

And when the perfect follower—rich, young and a good person—ran up to him, eager to know how to inherit eternal life, Jesus replied, “go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.”

That didn’t go over very well with the rich, young follower. Wait a minute. Jesus said what?

How about this one: “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:25)

Jesus not only said the unexpected; he did the unexpected. He commanded the wind and seas to be still, and they obeyed. He touched a man with leprosy and the man was healed. He scolded adults and welcomed children. In his final week on earth, Jesus welcomed all twelve followers to supper, took a towel and basin of water and washed their dirty feet—a job for servants back then.

Jesus also did what he said. He took up his own cross and followed God’s plan to restore our relationship with God, the one we messed up from the beginning. He gave himself fully and completely so that we might have life.

And he’s still working in people like you and me today. But it’s not what we expect. Instead of perks and advantages, Jesus extends an invitation to all who are overwhelmed and weary to come and find rest, to come to him, the one who is gentle and lowly of heart. Come to Jesus.

Let him turn your world upside down and you’ll discover things better than you can ever imagine.
PASSION WEEK
Recipes

PALM SUNDAY SPLASH
A tart and refreshing celebratory punch

• 1 can of frozen orange juice
• 1 can of frozen apple juice
• 1 Cup almond milk
• 1 Cup pomegranate juice
• 1 Tablespoon local honey
• Splash of vanilla
• 1 liter of ginger ale
• Strawberries for garnish

Mix frozen juices in a blender with almond milk, pomegranate juice and honey. Stir in vanilla. Mix with ginger ale. Serve with strawberry garnish.

EASTER SUNDAY YOGURT CHEESE SPREAD
On Good Friday, line a strainer or colander with cheesecloth. Pour your favorite tub of plain yogurt into the cheesecloth. Cover the top with the cheesecloth. Set the strainer in a bowl in the refrigerator.

On Easter Sunday, squeeze the cheesecloth to release more liquid and discard the liquid in the bowl. You can use this like cream cheese or sour cream. Enjoy plain or stir in cinnamon or a spoon of your favorite jam or fruit preserve. Or if you prefer a savory spread, mix in herbs like fill parsley or rosemary.

HOT CROSS BUNS
These traditional sweet baked treats are a Good Friday favorite. The cross in each bun reminds us of the cross of Good Friday.

• 1/2 C raisins/cranberries/ raspberries or strawberries (dried berries from Trader Joes work great—there is a mix that has pomegranate)
• 1 Tbsp active dry yeast
• 1/2 c warm water (100 degrees)
• 1 stick (1/2 c) butter at room temp.
• 1/2 c sugar
• 1 tsp salt
• 3 large eggs (1 separated)
• 4 1/4 c unbleached flour
• 1/2 C lukewarm milk
• 1 tsp Vanilla
• 1 tsp orange peel—optional
• 1/4 tsp cinnamon, 1/8 tsp nutmeg and ginger—(OR 1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice)

1. Soak dried fruit in bowl of hot water for 20 for 30 minutes.
2. Pour 1/2 C lukewarm water in bowl. Sprinkle yeast over surface and stir to dissolve.
4. Slowly add 1 1/2 c. flour. Mix in fruit and 1/2 c flour until a soft dough forms.
5. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface. Knead in the remaining flour. Continue kneading until dough is elastic. transfer to a large greased bowl. Cover and let rise about an hour until doubled in size.
6. Return dough to work surface and knead again for 1 min. Let rise again for 30 min.
7. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Divide dough into 12 even pieces. Shape into round buns. Cut an X on top of each bun with scissors. Brush with egg white wash—1 egg white and 1 T of water. Cover and let rest for ten minutes, then bake until golden, about 20 minutes.
8. Make a simple syrup glaze: 1/4 C sugar and 1/4 C water. Boil together until sugar is dissolved. Cool. Glaze the buns when they exit the oven.
9. Ice the buns when they have cooled slightly with white frosting squeezed into the cross etches.
EASTER GRASS

*Terra cotta pot and cat or wheat grass seeds.*

When we plant the seeds it reminds us that Jesus died to forgive our sins; then when the grass starts to come up in a few days, it reminds us that Jesus didn’t stay dead, but rose from the dead and invites us to trust him and be a part of his family.
COLOR PALM SUNDAY!
EASTER WORD SEARCH

Empty Tomb  Salvation  Easter  Flowers
Gospel     Risen      Cross     Love
Sunrise    Spring     Jesus     Hope
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