

Easter Season 2020

The Easter season begins this Sunday, April 12th and ends on Sunday, May 31st.
“Eastertide” is the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

This Easter Season is unlike any other – yet it serves as a reminder that Easter is not just one Sunday – Easter is not about fancy clothes or egg hunts or big productions. Easter is the catalyst of our faith – our hope that carries us through the darkest of times – the core of our identity as Christians. Jesus conquered death and is alive! We are Easter people – meant to carry the good news of resurrection and hope to all people, so that everyone will know the fullness of God’s love.

Scriptures for the Easter Season

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| Easter Sunday April 12, 2020 | <u>Acts 10:34-43</u> | <u>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</u> | <u>Colossians 3:1-4</u> | <u>John 20:1-18</u> or <u>Matthew 28:1-10</u> |
| Second Sunday of Easter April 19, 2020 | <u>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</u> | <u>Psalm 16</u> | <u>1 Peter 1:3-9</u> | <u>John 20:19-31</u> |
| Third Sunday of Easter April 26, 2020 | <u>Acts 2:14a, 36-41</u> | <u>Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19</u> | <u>1 Peter 1:17-23</u> | <u>Luke 24:13-35</u> |
| Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020 | <u>Acts 2:42-47</u> | <u>Psalm 23</u> | <u>1 Peter 2:19-25</u> | <u>John 10:1-10</u> |
| Fifth Sunday of Easter May 10, 2020 | <u>Acts 7:55-60</u> | <u>Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16</u> | <u>1 Peter 2:2-10</u> | <u>John 14:1-14</u> |
| Sixth Sunday of Easter May 17, 2020 | <u>Acts 17:22-31</u> | <u>Psalm 66:8-20</u> | <u>1 Peter 3:13-22</u> | <u>John 14:15-21</u> |
| Seventh Sunday of Easter May 24, 2020 | <u>Acts 1:6-14</u> | <u>Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35</u> | <u>1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11</u> | <u>John 17:1-1</u> |

Set aside time to read the scriptures above each week.

Use the following as reflection questions:

- How is God speaking to you through this passage?
- How does this passage relate to what we are going through today?
- What images, song lyrics, thoughts, emotions come to mind?
- Believing that the Spirit has the power to change us through scripture, how might you be changed by this passage?
- Who might you share this passage with, to discuss with or to provide comfort?

These spiritual practices for the Easter season are meant to be simple. You can do these alone or with your household. You could even meet online with others and share this together. My hope and prayer is that this is a meaningful way for you to remember and experience the story that binds us all together – God's story of love, forgiveness, and new life in Christ.

The colors assigned to Easter are white and gold, perfect for the purity and the glory of Resurrection Sunday. But those aren't the only colors allowed on this day. Color should splash and dazzle, like spring is breaking out everywhere. When the gold light of dawn rises, it enhances all the colors of creation, not just its own brightness. -umcdiscipleship.org

Create something that expresses the colors of the Easter season and/or that symbolizes new life. Look for signs of new life & celebrate them! Find ways to nurture or bring about new life, like caring for a baby animal or fixing something that is broken.

Easter tide is the reminder that we are made new in the resurrection of Christ. This is a perfect time to examine that newness and continue to grow in faith. We are Easter people. The Easter event has changed our essence. We choose to go through Lent; we find ourselves in Lent, a season of confession and repentance. But Easter finds us; it becomes us. We are Lenten people only for a short time and from a distance - at arm's length, but we are Easter people for all time. -umcdiscipleship.org

Tell your story.

**What does Jesus mean to you? How has faith shaped your life?
How are you being made new each day?**

Now
what?

Celebrating Easter as a whole season instead of one Sunday may seem unfamiliar. After so much build up to a big event like Christmas or Easter, we often want to rush back to normalcy.

But that's the whole point of Easter; there is no same old anymore.

Everything is new. The proclamation still rings in our ears, Christ is Alive!

This leads to the inevitable response, "Now what?" What does Christ's resurrection mean for us? How are we made alive again? How do we live into

eternity, even as we continue in the world as we know it? How do we live as Easter

people in a Good Friday world? -umcdiscipleship.org

Share the Risen Christ with others.

Practice the presence of God. Allow the Spirit to continue to form you as a disciple as you seek to make disciples and transform the world!

WESLEYAN MEANS OF GRACE

WORKS OF PIETY: BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, WORSHIP, SHARING FAITH WITH OTHERS, CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

WORKS OF MERCY: DOING GOOD WORKS, VISITING THE SICK/IMPRISONED, FEEDING THE HUNGRY, GIVING GENEROUSLY, SEEKING JUSTICE, SERVING THE POOR