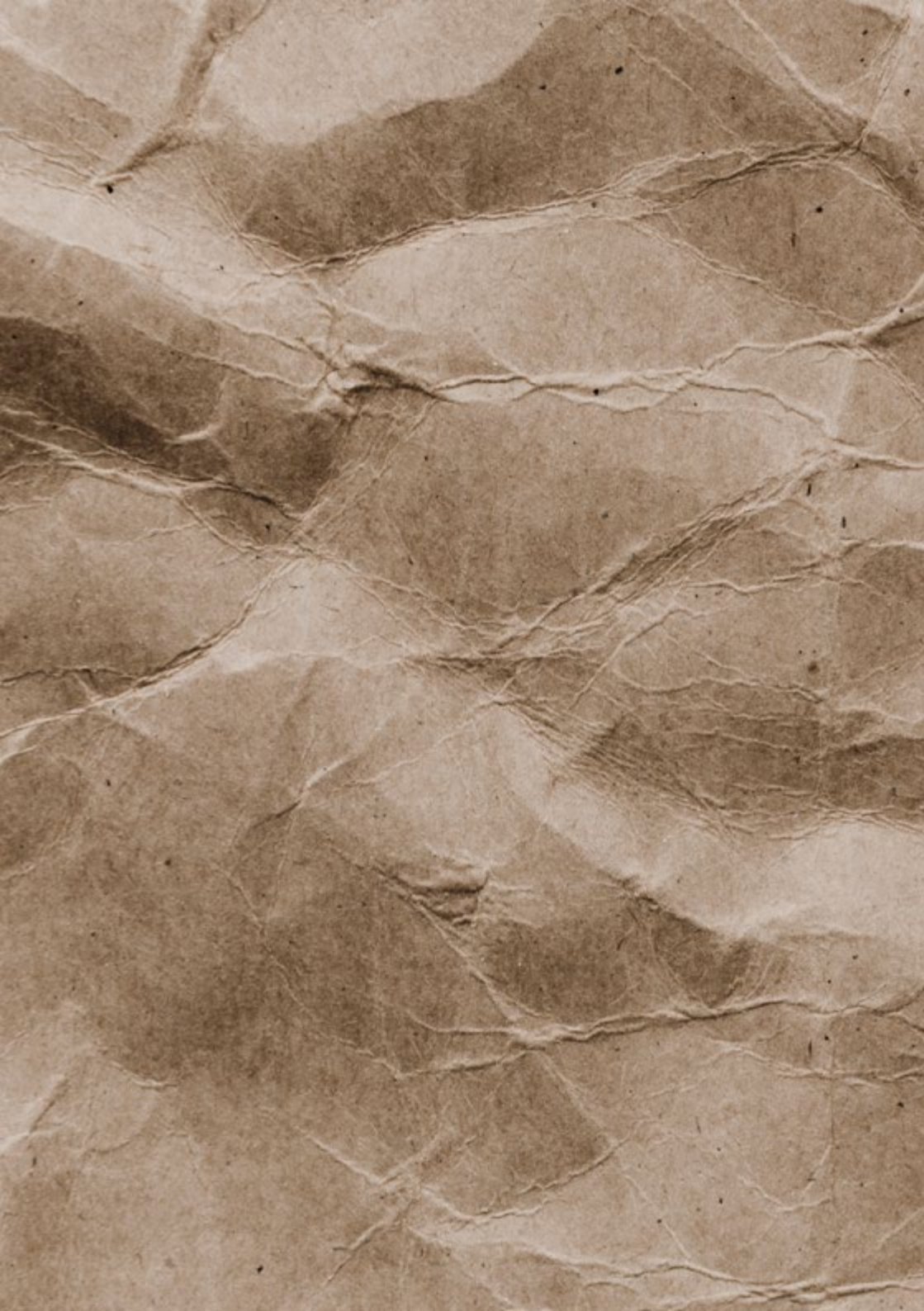


Church of Singapore

**Journey**  
Into  
**His**  
**Last**  
**Moments**

6 April - 12 April  
2020 Passion Week Devotions



Dear Father,

We come to You in awe and gratitude for the great work that Jesus has done on the cross. We pray that You will speak to us as we reflect on the events of Jesus' journey to save us. We ask that You help us to consider Jesus' words and actions, that they will speak to us. Father God, today, we come to You to humble ourselves as You have, in the manner of Your Son Jesus Christ.

Amen





# A Moment of...

DAY

**01** ... *Humility*  
6th April

DAY

**02** ... *Communion*  
7th April

DAY

**03** ... *Prayer*  
8th April

DAY

**04** ... *Trial*  
9th April

DAY

**05** ... *Crucifixion*  
10th April

DAY

**06** ... *Grief*  
11th April

DAY

**07** ... *Resurrection*  
12th April





**Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,**

Passion week is here. It is an opportune time to rediscover the journey Jesus took and to take time to meditate on the Word of God.

As you read this booklet, we invite you to embark on a journey with Jesus and His disciples through the seven days leading up to the cross, into the grave and to the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

If you are taking part in this by yourself, we encourage you to do it in an unhurried manner. Take time to find a cosy corner and with your bible in hand, spend the time with Jesus.

If you are going to be engaging this material as a family or in a group setting, we recommend that the passages be read silently while the devotional can be read out loud by a member of the group.

It is our prayer that through this journey, we will strengthen our devotion to our Lord and also strengthen our bonds as a family church.

*The writers.*



# 1

*6th April*

“

*Now that I,  
your Lord and  
Teacher, have  
washed your  
feet, you also  
should wash  
one another's  
feet*

”

(John 13:14)



## **Read: John 13: 1-17**

**I**t is Jesus' last meal with His disciples. As they are eating, Jesus stands up, removes His outer clothing and wraps it around His waist. He prepares a basin of water. What is Jesus about to do? He is going to wash their feet...

Back in the days of Jesus, feet washing was not a luxury, but a necessity. Many travelled by foot, some even walked barefoot on the dirty streets. Feet washing was a custom of hospitality, a task that was assigned to the slaves.

Jesus' act of feet washing is an illustration of His ultimate sacrifice and the extent of His love that the disciples do not yet understand - Jesus came down from His high place, to serve them (Phil 2:7).

Peter resists. But Jesus says, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me". You see, humility goes both ways - willingness to wash other's feet, and willingness to be washed. This act of humility stands in stark contrast to His disciples, who were arguing over being the "greatest of them all" (Luke 9:46). But Jesus teaches them that to love means to serve. For Jesus, "He loved them to the end" (John 13:1).



*Notes:*

Consider this...

Will you be willing to serve with the lowliest of mind and attitude? It was not just a spa session for the disciples, but Jesus instructed, “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14). This became one of Jesus’ final instructions to His disciples before He went to the cross.

Today,  
let us exemplify God's love  
by serving one another  
with a heart of  
humility.

Pray: Ask God how you can serve another person today.

2

“

*I have told you  
these things, so  
that in me you  
may have peace.  
In this world you  
will have trouble.  
But take heart!  
I have overcome  
the world.*

”

*7th April*

*(John 16:33)*

## Read: John 16

When we talk about the last supper that Jesus has with His disciples, we often think of the origin of the Holy Communion. At this Passover feast, Jesus takes the bread and cup, gives thanks and passes them to His disciples. He asks them to do the same in the future, in remembrance of the body He has given for us and the blood He has shed for us...

In fact, other than the institution of the Holy Communion, Jesus also teaches many things during this meal. John 13 - 16 contains the last lesson Jesus gives to His disciples before He sets out on the journey towards the cross. There are many familiar teachings, and these reminders and exhortations are especially important as they are Jesus' final instruction. Jesus declares that the purpose of these teachings are so that His disciples will not fall away (John 16:1). He ends with this, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Jesus knows that His disciples will soon experience many twists and turns - both spiritual and physical. In this final teaching, not only does Jesus prepare them for their future ministry, but He also gives them peace and assurance of hope. Though they are about to witness a very painful process, Jesus reassures them that He has conquered the world. The disciples may not understand at this point of time, but in the future, when they remember this last command, they will be comforted.

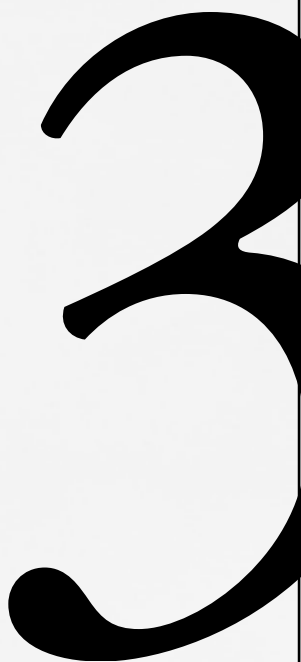




Today,  
let the peace of God  
take away all our  
insecurities  
and doubts.

Pray: Commit your worries and the things that you are experiencing now that you do not understand to God, and ask for His peace.





*8th April*

“

*Watch and pray  
so that you will  
not fall into  
temptation. The  
spirit is willing,  
but the flesh is  
weak.*

”

*(Matt 26:41)*



**Read: Matthew 26:36-46;  
Luke 22:39-46**

**K**nowing of the impending string of events to come, Jesus retreats to the garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives. In this place, olives are pressed and crushed for their oil. Just like olives in an olive press, Jesus bears the weight of intense pressure as He submits to the Father's will.

In the garden, with the night sky above Him, Jesus prays for the cup of suffering to be taken away from Him. Being fully God, He knows what needs to be done to save humanity in its entirety. Being fully God, He knows the cost -- death. Yet it is not just His Godhood that is revealed in Gethsemane, but also His humanity... Jesus is in anguish.

He understands the pain to come and the humiliation He will have

to endure while remaining silent under trial. Jesus, the perfect One, will soon take on the crushing weight of sin. Beads of sweat like blood roll down our Saviour's head as He prays for the third and final time, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matt 26:39) In the Father's presence Jesus finds stillness and in His submission, He finds peace. But what He finds as He goes to His disciples reveals yet again the weakness of Man. They are asleep.

Jesus today is our Great High Priest who understands our humanity and continues to intercede for us, even as we may be asleep. We are in Christ Jesus, hence there is no condemnation. Let us come to God in grace and in truth.



Today,  
“watch and pray so that  
you will not fall into temptation.  
The spirit is willing,  
but the flesh  
is weak.”

Pray: For God to awaken you from your spiritual slumber, that  
you will continue to press in till the day of His return. Remember,  
He knows what you are going through, there is grace.



4

*9th April*

“

*But Jesus made  
no reply, not  
even to a single  
charge – to the  
great amazement  
of the governor.*

”

*(Matt 27:14)*

## **Read: Matthew 27:11-31**

**A**fter Jesus is taken from the garden of Gethsemane, a series of trials and humiliations await him.

Jesus is first taken to Caiaphas the high priest and to the Sanhedrin. The chief priests and the whole council make many false claims against Him, but they cannot prove anything, so they bind Him and hand Him over to Pilate, the governor. When Pilate also finds no fault with Jesus, He sends Him to Herod, since He is under Herod's jurisdiction as a Galilean. Herod has heard of Jesus, and wants Him to perform a miracle; but Jesus answers him not a word. After despising and mocking Jesus, Herod and his soldiers sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate tries again and again to release Jesus, but the crowd presses him and he finally sentences Jesus to death.

During the whole process, Jesus is humiliated and beaten. In the trials, whether by the high priest, Pilate or Herod, Jesus answers wisely but more often, He chooses not to answer or to speak. "Then Pilate asked Him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor." (Matt 27:13-14)

Why does Jesus choose to remain silent when He has the power to refute or prove that He is the son of God? He knows that this is the reason that He has come into the world, and that this is what He has to bear and go through. He does not choose to avenge Himself, but seeks the will of God to fulfill His purpose.





Today,  
let us set aside our  
grievances and  
fix our eyes  
on eternal  
glory.

Pray: Ask the Lord to reveal the hurts that you may be harbouring, perhaps due to ridicule or an accusation made at you. Ask Him for help to release forgiveness. And once again turn your eyes onto the eternal glory that God has set for you.



“

*And Jesus cried out with a loud voice , and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

”

*10th April*

*(Mark 15:37-38)*



## Read: Mark 15:33-42

With His flailed back on the cross, the scorching sun above Him, each nail is driven into Jesus' flesh - one by one. With each nail, waves of pain wash over Him, yet He bears it all for our sake.

In the eyes of the disciples, it is over. Jesus seems to be at the end of His road. All hope is lost and they are in disarray. Yet, our Lord's focus is still on the task at hand. His mission has never been more clear. He is dying for our sake, for the sake of humanity. Jesus, in His last moment, lets out a cry, "It is finished!" and breathed His last. The earth shakes and the veil of the temple is torn in two.

We have journeyed with Jesus through the pages of the Bible, but nothing is more crucial than the moment where Jesus dies. In His days on earth, Jesus opened the veil of our eyes both physically and spiritually. He did everything to show us a better way to live, that

through salvation we can be holy and blameless. In His death, He ushered in a new covenant, signified yet again by the torn veil.

The veil of the temple was a thick cloth that separated the deepest part of the temple, the Holy of Holies, from anyone and everyone but the High Priest. In the Holy of Holies lay the ark of the covenant where the presence of God rested. In the old testament, we see that wherever the Ark went, God was there and victory was found. Yet because of sin, the Ark had to be held at a distance. No one could touch it, lest he might die. As the High Priest ministered in the Holy of Holies, a rope had to be tied to his ankle. In the event that he might be found to be unclean and hence die in his ministry, he was to be pulled out via that rope.



*Notes:*

[illegible]

Consider this...

As Jesus hung on the cross, with excruciating pain and unrelentless discomfort, there was only one thing on His mind – you. Through His death, He took away the veil that separated us from God the Father, that we may now enter into God’s presence. This freedom of access is unprecedented because now with Christ as the perfect sacrifice, the wages of sin are now paid. His blood redeemed us and it is by Christ’s righteousness that we may enter into His gates with thanksgiving.

Today,  
let us take time to enter  
into God's presence and posture  
ourselves rightly before Him  
with thanksgiving  
and praise.

Pray: Give thanks to the Lord for what He has done on  
the cross for you.

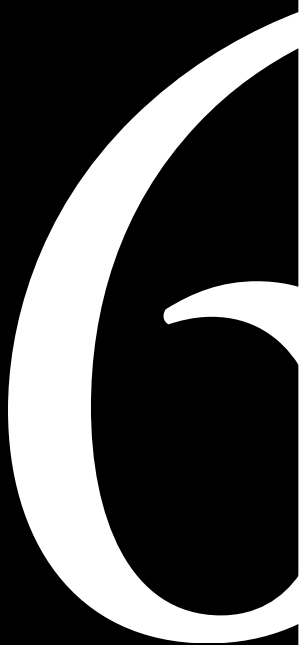
When  
you can't  
TRACE  
**His** hand...



You must  
TRUST  
His heart.







*11th April*

## Read: John 19:38-42

Jesus is dead.

Yesterday, the day of the crucifixion, was a day of confusion, disruption and shaking. Today, grief sets in. And the disciples must come to terms with the death of their Rabbi. They will never see Jesus again. They will never hear Him speak again. Who will lead them now? What should they do next?

Yet it is not just grief that the disciples feel. It is grief mixed with fear. John 19:38 tells us, “Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders.” Understandably, the followers of Jesus are afraid because they now face the very real threat that those who went after Jesus will come after them next. It is not a good day to be a follower of Jesus. Joseph

and Nicodemus secretly tend to Jesus’s body (John 19), the disciples all go into hiding due to fear of the Jewish leaders (John 20:19), and Simon Peter goes back to his old life as a fisherman (John 21:3).

2020 has not been an easy year for many of us. The world has been plagued by fear and death. Some of you have experienced loss this year. Some of you may be feeling anxious, depressed, or uncertain of the future. Some of you are struggling because God seems to be silent. Thankfully, our faith makes space for those who feel this way. The day after Jesus’s death was the worst day of the disciples’ lives. Scripture does not shy away from recording their struggle, and that alone should be a comfort to us.



*Notes:*

[illegible]

Consider this...

The fact that these stories appear in Scripture is an assurance to us that God understands that human beings will struggle.

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Today,

it is okay for us to acknowledge  
that things are not okay.

Today, it is okay for us to grieve, mourn  
and seek God for answers.  
God understands.

Pray: Bring your sorrows, grief, and sadness before the Lord.



“

*Why are you  
crying?  
Who is it  
you are  
looking  
for?*

”

*12th April*

*(John 20:15)*

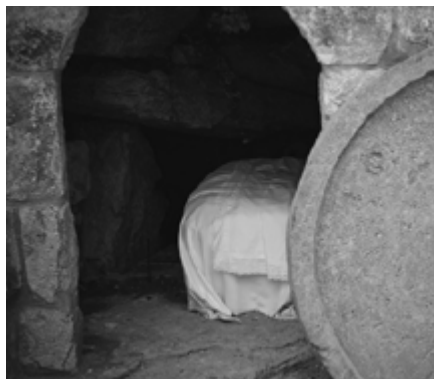
## Read: John 20:1-18

**I**t is the first day of the week. While the world still sleeps, unaware that the course of history is about to be altered forever, one woman - Mary Magdalene, a follower of Jesus - makes the dark and lonely journey to the tomb of Jesus, hoping to tend to his body.

But the body is not there! Mary is distraught. The other followers of Jesus hide away in fear and grief, but Mary risks her life to stay at the tomb, searching for the missing body of her Lord.

The beautiful thing is that her Lord finds her first. "Woman...Who is it you are looking for?" (John 20:15) She looks for a dead body, but a living, breathing, risen Saviour looks for her. Jesus then calls Mary by her name and she turns towards him, finally recognising him for who he is - Jesus, her Lord and her teacher, is alive!

For Christians today, the resurrection is the basis of our hope. Resurrection is the defeat of death, so we have hope that no enemy is too great for God to overcome. Resurrection reminds us that even the darkest days can be overwhelmed by the light of Christ.



Jesus then instructs Mary to go and tell His disciples that He is alive. Mary Magdalene, who was once a woman possessed by seven demons (Luke 8:2), now becomes the first person to witness the resurrection of Jesus, and the very first evangelist to declare the good news of the risen Lord to others.



Today,  
we have hope that death  
does not have the final say.  
Death is not the end.  
Today, there is hope  
for something greater  
than this.

Pray: Praise God for His victory! Pray that the resurrection  
power of Christ will be at work in the dark places.



While Jesus' time on earth has come to an end, God's narrative for the world continues to unfold. Jesus continues in intercession for us, is still working miracles everyday, still guiding and is still working in us. Yes, even right at this moment.

Consider this... what is your part in God's narrative? It does not matter how young or old you are. What matters is that you are still here and you still have a part to play.

Your story has yet to come to an end...

