



At Home

We were so sad to announce that Messy Easter is postponed. We miss gathering, and we miss the mess! As our governor has instituted a Stay-At-Home order, **Messy Church is traveling to your home.** Please pray with us that the threat of gathering in large crowds will soon pass and we will be able to meet again with our Messy Church family. In the mean time, may this Messy Church at home give you some hope and add to the mess as we get ready for Easter.

At Easter...

Christians remember that Jesus came to the world to save the world. What does it mean that Jesus saves? Jesus offers to save us from the ways we hurt ourselves and hurt others. Jesus offers to save us from how we hurt the environment and the times when we do not offer love to others. Jesus offers to save you from the pain you experience.

Even though Jesus came to save the world, the world did not welcome Jesus. In fact, the world killed Jesus; he was executed by the Roman Empire by being nailed to a cross. Though Jesus was suffering terrible pain, he still shows us ultimate love. While he was on the cross, in the Bible, Luke tells us, that Jesus offered forgiveness to everyone who was hurting him, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

Unlike every other person in history that died, Jesus did not stay dead. Jesus was killed on a Friday, then on the following Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. By rising from the dead, Jesus shows us that death is not final, that even in death there is hope in God. Luke writes about the Easter story in chapter 24.

Two women who loved Jesus went on Sunday to visit the tomb and they met two angels standing beside an empty tomb. They said:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8 Then they remembered his words. 9 When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others."

The women that encountered the angels and the empty tomb then ran to tell everyone else about the miracle of Jesus defeating death. They told their friends, and now they tell us that Jesus is more powerful than fear, pain, and death.

Just of the women ran to tell others about Jesus rising from the tomb, take time, at home, to share this story.

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EASTER

Music...

We have a YouTube worship music playlist for you and your household. Visit decaturnmc.com/messychurch to watch and sing along.

Activities...

Cross Art

Supplies: paper, painter's tape (or masking tape), paint, paint brushes.

Place the painter's tape, in the shape of the cross, at the center of the piece of paper. Then, pick out your favorite colors to paint with. Paint the entire piece of paper (including over the top of the tape) and wait for it to dry. When it has dried, carefully pull the painter's tape off to reveal a beautiful white cross among your artwork.

Prayer: Be with us this day, O God, as we remember that Jesus died upon a cross many years ago. We are sad yet we know that you are with us no matter how we feel. Thank you that your love for us is stronger than death. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN.

Secret Message

Supplies: paper, white crayons, watercolor.

Use the white crayon to draw and write secret pictures and messages that have to do with Easter Sunday. Hand the paper to another member of your family and have them paint the paper with watercolor to reveal the secrets underneath! Ideas include the words "He is risen," a hill with three crosses, an empty tomb, etc.

Prayer: God of life, we have experienced many different emotions this past week and today we are jumping up and down in joyful exuberance. Jesus is alive! What a surprise to remember that in the midst of dark times, you surprise us with new life. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! In the name of the risen Jesus we pray. AMEN.

Meal...

Share any meal with your family and talk about your Messy Church activities. With whom can you share the good news that Jesus lives? Who will you invite to our next in-person Messy Church?

