



Holy Week and Easter 2026

Children and Youth ~ Trinity Episcopal Church



Palm Sunday, March 29: The commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem! Church School and Nursery open at 9:00 a.m. All levels participate in the **Procession of the Palms**, which begins on the Labyrinth before the 10:00 a.m. service. Please plan to arrive no later than 9:50 a.m. if you would like to participate!. After the procession into the sanctuary, children in Level I and II (Age 3.5-Grade 3) will return to their atria, while Level III (Grades 4-6) will stay with their family for the remainder of the service.



Maundy Thursday, April 2: The service begins at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall with a simple meal where we recall and reenact Jesus's last night with his disciples, the last supper, and the garden of Gethsemane. These events are ones that the children hear about in church school and work with through the Cenacle, City of Jerusalem, and altar materials. This service can be a great way to bring their atrium learning directly into practice. (Your children will be seated with you.) **Please sign up to bring simple food that will be shared at your table! Sign-ups are on an easel during coffee hour.** As the service continues, your family will be invited to have your feet washed. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar, a stark reminder of the events to come. **No childcare is provided and the nursery will NOT be open at this service.** Length of Service (including meal): Approx 2+ hours.



Good Friday, April 3: This service takes place in the church at 6 p.m. The liturgy commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus and is deeply moving. The dramatized Passion recalls the events of Jesus' death, and is followed by the solemn ritual of the veneration of the cross. **No childcare is provided and the nursery will NOT be open at this service.** At this service, the Christ Candle is extinguished and the church is left in silence. This means that the resurrection of Jesus is not explicitly proclaimed, which can

be difficult for some children. In the atrium, when we tell our younger children about Jesus' death, we always immediately follow it with the reminder that Jesus is risen. For obvious reasons on Good Friday, where we focus on the events of the Passion itself, parental wisdom is advised. I would recommend this service for more mature children; you know your child best. Length of Service: 1+ hr.



The Great Vigil of Easter, April 4: The service begins on the Labyrinth at 7 p.m. We begin by lighting a new fire on the Labyrinth and carrying candles into the church.

Although it is later in the evening, please consider attending this service—the vigil liturgy is beautiful and the ringing of the bells is really fun! The Vigil is our most ancient worship experience. We celebrate the moment of Jesus' resurrection with the ringing of bells and incense. **Please bring a bell to ring!** This is also a holy day where we renew our baptismal vows. Length of Service: Approx 2 hours. Following the service, there will be a festive reception in the Parish Hall! **Everyone is invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share;** beverages of all sorts will be provided. Please see the signup sheet in the Parish Hall to RSVP and indicate what food item you'll be bringing to share. **Children are invited to stay in church for the service. Nursery and childcare is NOT available at the Vigil.**



Easter Sunday, April 5: We celebrate the Good News of Resurrection, of Love overcoming Death! We join The Choir in singing festive hymns and hear the story of the First Easter! Begins in the church at 10:00 am with the children decorating a cross with fresh flowers for a few minutes. **Please bring fresh flowers to decorate the**

cross! The children sit in the sanctuary with families until they're called to the front to decorate. Once the cross is decorated, **children ages 4-10 are invited to go to the Guild Hall for special Easter crafts and music** provided by Art from the Heart. All kids who are 11 and up are invited to help with the littles or stay in church with their parents. Children will be brought into the service at the Peace so that they can join the congregation for Eucharist together. Length of Service: Approx. 80 minutes. **All atria are closed. Nursery care is available.** There will be Easter egg hunts after church for all kids! The Easter egg hunt will be immediately following the service. Those under 3 years will be on the small lawn that surrounds the Labyrinth; the older kids (4-10 years old) will be on the playground. The oldest kids (older level 3 kids and Youth Group) will be doing a guided hunt with clues for their basket of goodies.



Liturgy of Light in the Atrium, April 12: Children arrive at 9am for CGS per the usual Sunday schedule. Catechists will lead all children in a special presentation called the "Liturgy of Light." In this special CGS Easter tradition, children march, sing, and light the new Paschal Candle to celebrate the coming of Jesus' light and resurrection.

Upcoming events for your calendar:

Mothers' Day, May 10: Level III children will be in church that day; their atrium will be closed.

Children and Youth Sunday, May 17: Children in Level II and III will have the opportunity to serve in a variety of liturgical and support roles. Sign ups will be available in the atria starting after Easter. Level II and III will be closed, but Level I and the nursery will remain open.

CYC Summer Movie Night on the Labyrinth, June 6: All families with children or youth are invited to join us for a movie night with snacks and friends under the stars on the Trinity Labyrinth!

Graduation Celebration Sunday, June 7: We celebrate our graduating seniors, children who are transitioning to a new level, and children moving up into Youth Group. A celebratory picnic follows the service at Alameda Park.

For more information about Holy Week and Easter activities at our parish, please visit <https://www.trinitysb.org/holy-week-and-easter>, contact Theo Patterson at cydirector@trinitysb.org, or ask a Catechist on any Sunday.