



'Worship at home' Holy Week Monday

As we move through this Easter week, you are invited to spend some time each day in worship, reflecting more deeply on the last week of Jesus' life and on your own discipleship.

Before you sit down and make yourself comfortable, **find a coin** from your purse, wallet or piggy bank. You might also like to bring a **piece of paper and pen/pencil**.

Light a candle to remind you of the light of Christ with you, and place it in a safe place.



Consider your coin and think about your financial priorities: what do you spend your money on?

You might like to write a list, using broad categories such as food, living expenses, work expenses, travel, treats, etc.

How do you choose how much you spend on each?

Matthew 21:12-17

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"

And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

New International Version

Reflection: The money changers and stall holders were a normal part of temple life: they converted the many different currencies into Jewish shekels and sold doves and other animals to be used for temple sacrifices, as required by Jewish law. Jesus' action of cleansing the temple could be seen as a rejection of Jewish traditions and was possibly a significant trigger for his arrest. Money and Jewish law had taken priority over prayer and worship in the temple system. This might prompt us to consider our priorities.

**Think about your spiritual and emotional priorities:
what do you spend your time on?**

You might like to write a list, using broad categories such as worship, prayer, reading, connecting with others, acts of service; you might also include worry, watching the news, spending time on games/technology.

How do you choose how much time you spend on each?

At the moment, not only the tables but the whole of our lives feel like they have been overturned.

How might this become a time to reassess your priorities, and what is really important to you?

Prayer: Gracious God, confront us with your truth.

This Holy Week, open our eyes

to see what we might not wish to see about ourselves.

Overturn our inner tables of judgement and rejection, of pride and greed, of fear and defensiveness.

Then gently pick up the pieces,

help us reassess and realign our lives,

that we might find ourselves made whole again,

in your love. Amen



Closing: As you consider your priorities, you might choose to set aside your offering each week while not at church: place it in an envelope or, if you are able, investigate online giving options.

Keep your eyes out for those around you who may be struggling to make ends meet, and offer to help as you can.

This resource was prepared by Rev Cheryl Wilson of Ascot Community Uniting Church and generously shared for use by the wider church.