

APRIL 2026 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of April 2026.

If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family.

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

April is a month that lives between seasons. The chill of winter finally loosens its grip, the earth begins to soften, and signs of new life quietly emerge all around us. Buds appear where branches once looked lifeless, and what seemed dormant begins to awaken. It is no coincidence that the Church celebrates Easter during this season, because the resurrection speaks the same language as spring: God brings life where we expected only endings.

As we journey through this Easter season together, we are reminded that resurrection is not only something we celebrate, it is something we live. The risen Christ meets His disciples not just in triumph, but in ordinary moments: walking along roads, sharing meals, speaking peace into fear, and restoring hope to weary hearts. Resurrection shows us that God is still at work in the middle of our daily lives, renewing faith, restoring relationships, and calling us forward with hope.

Many of us carry burdens that are not easily seen; worries about family, health concerns, uncertainty about the future, or the quiet fatigue that comes from living in a demanding world. Easter does not deny these realities. Instead, it proclaims that none of them have the final word. The empty tomb declares that God's grace is stronger than despair, forgiveness stronger than failure, and life stronger than death.

This month, I encourage you to look for signs of resurrection around you and within you. Notice moments of kindness. Practice forgiveness. Reach out to someone who may feel forgotten. Spend time in prayer and Scripture, allowing Christ's peace to settle deeply into your heart. Often, resurrection begins not with dramatic change, but with small acts of faithfulness through which God does extraordinary work.

As a church, we continue to be called to live as Easter people; welcoming others, serving our community, and sharing the hope we have received. Every act of compassion, every word of encouragement, and every gathering for worship becomes a witness to the living Christ among us.

Thank you for the many ways you embody the love of Christ through Cherryvale Church. Your prayers, generosity, and presence make this community a place where faith grows and hope is renewed. It is a privilege to walk alongside you in ministry and in life.

May the joy of the risen Lord fill your homes, strengthen your faith, and guide your steps in the days ahead.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Jonathan Greer

APRIL WORSHIP

March 29 - Palm Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Matt 21:1-11; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-27: 54

Call To Worship

Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Proclamation of the Passion Narrative. Read: Gospel of Matthew 26:14-27:66

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Most Gracious and Merciful God, we give you thanks for what you have done for us in Christ Jesus. We humbly repent of our sins and turn to you seeking forgiveness. Let these gifts that we now offer to you be a part of our acts of penitence, expressing our desire to follow and love you with our whole heart, mind, soul, body, and strength, as well as loving our neighbor as ourselves. We thank you for your forgiveness. May we strive to know you deeper and deeper through this Holy Week as we journey with you to the cross. Through Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

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## **April 2 - Maundy Thursday**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Exod 12:1-14; Ps 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Call To Worship**

Just as the disciples gathered in a room with Jesus, so we gather in this place, ready to watch, listen, and pray on this Holy Thursday. We come to remember and encounter Love Incarnate, who sets us free. As Jesus kneels to wash the dirt from the disciples' feet, we join in their surprise; we've never seen a Savior who acts like a servant. We come to remember and encounter Love Incarnate, who sets us free. As Jesus calls the disciples to wash one another's feet, we receive with them a new commandment: to love one another as Jesus has loved us. We come to remember and encounter Love Incarnate, who sets us free. Beloved, come. Come to kneel as a servant, come to the table with your fellow disciples, come to worship Love Incarnate, who sets you free. We come to remember and to worship God who has loosed our bonds and set us free to love one another as God has loved us.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful, Mighty, Matchless One, You have loved us to the end. There was betrayal in our heart, Yet you loved us anyway. You knew we would deny you, Yet you loved us anyway. In our selfishness, we balked, we objected, we disapproved, Yet you loved us anyway. We sought to point the finger at anyone other than ourselves, Yet you loved us anyway. Forgive us, we pray. Renew our healing convictions, Restore our call to service, Rekindle our flame for justice, That we may once again become your people of peace.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, as we are known by our love that we follow you. Amen.

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April 3 - Good Friday

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22; Heb 10:16-25; John 19:1-42; Mark 14:1-15:47

Prayer of Good Friday

Almighty God, graciously behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A separate booklet for Good Friday is enclosed.

APRIL WORSHIP

April 5 - Resurrection Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Jer 31:1-6; Ps 118:1-24; Col 3:1-4; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Matt 28:1-10

Call to Worship

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, your wondrous birth means nothing unless we are born again, your death and sacrifice mean nothing unless we die to sin, your resurrection means nothing if you be risen alone. We confess that we often have chosen to remain captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and defaced your image in us. Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake. Enable us by His resurrection power and the life-giving Spirit, to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again for us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love and we are strengthened by your life. Thank you for taking our Sin upon the cross to be crucified. Thank you for dying our death so that we may rise with you to new life. Bless what we have offered to you this day so that your Kingdom may spread to the ends of the earth. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit as we are sent forth to live your life and share your joy, as we give ourselves for others. For Christ is Risen as our Lord and Savior, Alleluia! Amen.

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## **April 12**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Ex 15:1-11; Ps 111; 1 Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

### **Call To Worship**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In great mercy, God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We come to worship with hope that is alive in Christ. Though we face trials, our faith is being refined more precious than gold. We rejoice with a joy beyond words, for God's salvation is being revealed among us. Though we have not seen Him, we love Him. Though we do not see Him now, we believe. Let us worship the risen Christ, our living hope and our everlasting joy! For our hope is built on Him!

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, You have given us new birth into a living hope, yet we often live as though hope has died. We allow fear to shape our decisions, discouragement to cloud our vision, and suffering to make us forget Your promises. When trials come, we doubt Your presence. When faith is tested, we rely on ourselves instead of trusting You. We confess that we have loved comfort more than faithfulness and certainty more than trust. Forgive us, O Lord. Refine our hearts, renew our faith, and restore in us the joy of Your salvation.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious and living God, we bless You for Your great mercy, for through the resurrection of Jesus Christ You have given us a living hope and an inheritance that never fades. Receive these gifts we offer today, and receive also our lives, refined through trial, strengthened by faith, and filled with love for the One we do not see yet trust completely. Use these offerings to proclaim the good news of salvation, to bring joy where there is sorrow, and hope where hearts are weary. Keep us steadfast in faith until the day when our joy is made complete in Your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# APRIL WORSHIP

## April 19

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Isa 51:1-6; Ps 34:1-10; 1 Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

### **Call To Worship**

We were ransomed not with silver or gold, But with the precious blood of Christ. Once we walked in confusion, Now Christ walks beside us. The living Word opens our eyes and hearts. We come to worship the One who redeems and restores, the risen Christ who give us new life and new purpose.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy and Merciful God, You have redeemed us at great cost, yet we often live as though grace were cheap. We follow the patterns of the world instead of the way of Christ. Forgive us when our love grows shallow, when our faith becomes routine, and when we forget the price of our redemption. Shape us into people of sincere love, that our lives may reflect Your holiness and mercy.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, You have redeemed us through Christ and called us into new life and living hope. All that we have comes from Your mercy and grace. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and trust, and use them to proclaim Your redeeming love, to strengthen Your Church, to serve those in need, and to welcome all who seek hope, healing, and belonging. Shape us also into generous people, that our lives may reflect the grace we have received. Finish Your new creation in us, that we may go forth to love, serve, and glorify You in all we do. Through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

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April 26

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Ezk 34:7-15; Ps 100; 1 Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Call to Worship

Once we were wandering like lost sheep, But now we return to the Shepherd of our souls. Christ leads us beside still waters. Christ restores our lives. Come follow the Shepherd who calls us by name. We come to worship and follow our Good Shepherd!

Prayer of Confession

Good Shepherd, You guide us in paths of righteousness, yet we resist Your leading. We seek comfort over faithfulness, retaliation instead of grace, control instead of trust. Forgive us when we stray from Your voice. Heal us by Your mercy and return us to Your care. Lead us again in Your ways of peace, as we learn to walk in your ways.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Shepherding God, You gather us into Your flock and sustain us with Your grace. You lead us beside still waters, restore our souls, and guide us in paths of righteousness. Bless these gifts and offerings, that through them Your healing love may reach the weary, Your comfort surround the hurting, and Your hope be made known to all who seek rest in Your care. Shape us to be faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to us, living as sheep of Your mercy and love in the world, as You lead us by Your own hand, through every trial and every joy. Amen.

TIDAL WAVE CAR WASH TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW.

\$10 TICKETS GETS \$30 CARWASH. VALID THRU 11/30/26.

GOOD AT ANY TIDAL WAVE LOCATION.

CONTACT LAURA IN THE CHURCH OFFICE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Resurrection Word Search - Find the **40** words or phrases relating to Resurrection Day. Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

R	P	T	H	G	I	L	C	A	T	T	N	C	Y	S	L	E	O	G	E
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X	R	M	A	M	V	O	X	A	I	J	I	U	P	L	P	P	P	O	I
D	G	O	I	I	N	W	N	T	Y	E	J	C	M	V	S	N	V	N	L
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H	A	J	U	L	E	L	L	A	H	O	H	J	Z	N	E	S	I	R	C

Lamb
Passion
Golgotha
Calvary
Forgiveness
Repentance
Renewal
Rebirth
New life
Hope
Joy
Praise
Worship
Glory
Hallelujah
Hosanna
Kingdom
Faith
Prayer
Spirit
Anointing
Truth
Light
Love
Gospel
Covenant

Resurrection
Easter
Cross
Crucifixion
Redeemed
Risen
Tomb

Empty
Victory
Grace
Mercy
Salvation
Atonement
Sacrifice

How to Align Your Prayers With the Word of God

A deep belief in prayer can exist alongside a lingering sense of not being very “good” at it. There may be a desire to pray prayers that reach into heaven and help bring it to earth, right here and now. Yet far too often, prayer can feel distracted, inconsistent, and ineffective. For many, it becomes filled with “shoulds” that are never quite reached. This experience is more common than it might seem.

Over time, that experience can change through the adoption of a simple, transformative practice. Prayer can become not only powerful and effective, but also fresh and adaptable each day. This approach is led by the Holy Spirit and begins within the pages of the Bible. Instead of focusing on talking God through a daily list, prayer shifts toward speaking God’s own words over the people, places, and situations of life and the world. In doing so, there is often a deeper alignment with the heart of God—and a greater experience of answered prayer. This transformation begins by taking prayers directly from the pages of the Bible.

Praying From the Word of God

When you open your Bible, you’re not just reading ancient words — you’re entering into a story that God spoke long before you arrived on the scene. The events of this story are still unfolding, and He is the author. This makes the Word of God the perfect birthplace for your prayers, because what God determines will come to pass. He knows the beginning, the middle — and already foresees the end. The Holy Spirit uses the Bible to align your heart and mouth with the things God is already doing.

The Bible itself describes this connection beautifully:

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven... so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire.” — Isaiah 55:10–11 (NIV)

When you take God’s words and speak them back to Him in prayer, you are participating in that work. His words are seeds, and your prayers are the watering. They don’t return empty. They accomplish something as you speak the things God cares about over your people, places, and plans.

Prayer like this goes way beyond personal comfort or requests — it’s powerful kingdom participation. When you pray through Scripture, you’re joining God’s mission to bring heaven to earth. You’re praying His priorities, not just your own.

Prayer as Part of Your Bible Study

Too often we treat prayer as something separate from reading Scripture — something that comes before or after we close our Bibles. But what if prayer is the continuation of your Bible reading — the way you respond, process, and partner with God as you read?

When you start to pray directly from Scripture, it changes how you study it. You begin to notice not only what God is saying, but what He cares about. You see His priorities, His character, His plans. His personality. You start asking, “What matters to God in this passage?” instead of just, “What does this mean for me?” That shift — from self-centered to God-centered prayer — will transform your relationship with Him. And ironically, as you focus more on God’s priorities, your personal concerns will find their rightful place. You’ll start to see them through His eyes.

The Spirit’s Role in Your Prayers

Sometimes prayers are structured and written. Sometimes they’re spontaneous or whispered in the car. Other times they’re sung, or just sitting in silence, comforted by Hebrews 4:12, which says God knows the thoughts and desires inside you even before you form them into words. God never grows tired of hearing from you. Not once. You could pray continually — as 1 Thessalonians 5:17 encourages — and He’d still delight in every word.

But there's a deeper potency to the prayers that are born in Scripture. These are not just the "Lord, help me find a parking spot!" kind of prayers (though you can keep those, too). These are prayers rooted in His eternal truth, anchored in His voice.

Here's the best part: you're not doing this alone. Romans 8:26 reminds us that even when we don't know what to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us. That means the same Spirit who inspired the Word of God is at work inside you, helping you speak His very words back to the Father.

Join God in His Work

When we pray through Scripture, we step into the ongoing work of God's kingdom. Jesus gave His followers a mission — to spread the gospel and make disciples in His name — and He gave us prayer as one of the ways to join Him in that mission.

You may never step foot in certain nations or meet certain people, but your prayers can reach them. The Word of God spoken from your lips releases His power into places you cannot go.

When you pray Scripture, you're not just asking for things — you're declaring His promises, releasing His purposes, and aligning your heart with His will.

How to Start

So how do you actually do this? Begin simply. When you read your Bible, ask:

What matters to God in this passage?

What is He doing or revealing about Himself?

How can I pray in agreement with what He's already said?

Then, turn those insights into prayer. If you are reading Psalm 103 you might say: "Lord, You are slow to anger and abounding in love (Psalm 103:8). As I interact with _____ today help me not to take the bait and get offended but take a breath and remember your love for me."

Or if you are reading Colossians or 1 Timothy you might say, "Father, Your Word says I need to put off my old self today (Col. 3:9). Help me not to be corrupted by my desire for wealth. Reveal the opportunities you are putting in my path to give generously and give me the courage to admit and fight off my love of money (1 Tim. 6:10)."

That's it — you're praying Scripture! Over time, it will start to feel natural to focus on God's heart and work in a passage of Scripture searching for things to pray. You will still get to talk to God about whatever is on your "list" (and much more!) — but you'll do it with His plans and priorities at the forefront.

A Call to Action

God has spoken and His Word is alive. He invites you to speak His words back to Him in faith, counting on their trustworthiness and love. Don't let your prayer life stay stuck in dry, dull routine or check-the-box religion.

Open your Bible this week, and instead of just reading it, start praying it. Let the Word of God shape your words as you confidently "approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace..." (Heb. 4:16, NIV).

When you do, you'll find that prayer isn't something you "stink at." It's something you were made for. And your quiet whispers might just start moving mountains.

Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

January - cereal and instant oatmeal cups

February - peanut butter and jelly jars

March - canned milk and dry milk powder

April - Mac n Cheese

May - canned meats and fish

June - canned fruit, fruit snacks and fruit cups

July - canned or boxed soup and soup cups

August - cereal bars / granola bars

September - peanut butter

October - canned pasta and pasta cups

November - anything thanksgiving

December - paper goods and personal hygiene items

In addition to the above list we are collecting Kleenex, Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer for the teachers and kids at AR Ware Elementary.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.