**12. Easter…..Outdoors!**

*There is NO accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly – sorry!*



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| **Age range:** Primary |
| **Theme:** *This assembly of the term and features, not unexpectedly, the Easter account. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children.* ***We would encourage you to choose a day when it is fine (or not raining, at any rate!) so that you can join together outside to celebrate this most important of Christian festivals. There is no accompanying PowerPoint for this week, or video, but there are lots of links in the Easter materials sent to schools. If you need something more traditional than this, then there are several examples on the Diocesan website.*** |
| **DiamondHow does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?**This week, the focus is on the importance of the Easter narrative to Christians at this time of year – and how it reflects such a spectrum of emotions. |
| **Resources:** * Because this collective worship takes place outdoors, the **Calendar of Kindness** is not linked within this script.
* We are grateful for ideas developed by the *Go Team* in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, which helped with this collective worship. Their booklet of resources can be found here: [10-Ideas-for-Easter-2021.pdf (bathandwells.org.uk)](https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/10-Ideas-for-Easter-2021.pdf) Jane has also created a reflective walk for all ages around 10 ‘stops’ similar to the idea from Bath & Wells. You can find this on the Diocesan website, and might like to make it available to families in your school community
* There are also some great Easter outdoors ideas here: [Resources | muddychurch](https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/resources) and Easter trails here: [EASTER RESOURCES | Together at Home (tath.co.uk)](https://www.tath.co.uk/easter-resources)
* **There are two different routes that you could take for this collective worship outdoors:** **Scavenger Hunt, or Easter Story Stones.** Both options will need you to gather some natural resources, as listed in the ‘Preparation’ section for each. It’s important that you encourage children to use ‘fallen’ items rather than picking living things. If you are not sure that you’ll have enough to scavenge around your school premises, you could give the list as ‘homework’ so that children bring from their home environment – or scavenged on a family walk. You can also buy bags of pebbles from garden centres – or use stone shapes cut out of paper. Both options use the same 5 ‘readings’ which tell the story from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection.
* *Raised hand with solid fill***Option 1 – Scavenger Hunt:** Each child will need to have gathered some natural resources from your school grounds before you start this collective worship: this is outlined in the ‘Preparation’ section of the script. The symbol shows how children will use each different resource. There will also be some things to think about for each part.
* **Option 2 – Easter Story Stones:** Each child will need to have gathered 5 stones. These should be of a size that children can draw on. Click on the link to look at an example of a generic set that someone has created: [Flame: Creative Children's Ministry: Make Your Own Bible Story Stones](https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/10/make-your-own-bible-story-stones.html) This option could be run indoors as well.
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| **To listen to:** Use whatever songs from your school’s Easter collection are appropriate for you – you may be singing, signing or listening. If you are outdoors, you may decide not to sing at all! – or to bless your neighbours with a rendition of Spring Chicken or similar!If you’re stuck, try: * **Remember Me:** [Easter Song - Remember Me! - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=nhFBX5ZSySo&feature=emb_logo)
* **Hosanna Rock:** [Yancy & Little Praise Party - Hosanna Rock [OFFICIAL PRESCHOOL MUSIC VIDEO] Palm Sunday Song - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=iVwhdqDrfz8&feature=emb_logo)
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| **Additional material for this week might be:** (see Appendix Three for question starters to unpack the Bible content.)Use different retellings of the Easter story during the week – or videos. There are lots of links in the materials you already have! |
| **CandleIdeas to build spirituality, at school and at home:** * **There are many ideas for Easter in the list of resources on the Diocesan website and lots of different ways of telling the story.**
* **Re-use your materials from the scavenger hunt** to create a picture of part of the Easter narrative (either indoors or outdoors)
* **Prayer Spaces in Schools** have some excellent resources for Easter: [Easter prayer activities\_PrayerSpacesInSchools.pdf](https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/downloads/Easter%20prayer%20activities_PrayerSpacesInSchools.pdf)
* **Watch Patti Rokus** create the Easter story out of stones. There are lots of separate creations here: [Easter Week in Rocks - Jesus Holy Week Bible Stories for Kids by Patti Rokus-Rocks Tell Stories - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlYkZkY1KaVZTHFP2135R3LQGk9HnS_wG)
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| **Option 1: Easter Scavenger Hunt** |
| **Preparation:** *Each child will need a paper bag (more eco-friendly than plastic) in which to gather their ‘finds’.** some fallen leaves *(Palm Sunday)*
* an acorn ‘cup’ or horse chestnut half-shell and a small stone of a similar size *(Maundy Thursday)*
* some twigs – some long and some short *(Good Friday)*
* a larger stone *(Easter Day*: this will represent the stone across the tomb, but size isn’t really important) ***NB You will be ‘rolling’ these stones (here***[***\*\****](#Scavenger) ***in the script) with children, so ensure you set clear safety rules about NOT throwing them!!***
* the final item you will find together as part of the collective worship – a sign of new life *(Resurrection).* You will need to think about the place(s) that you might want children to search for this [but not pick!] Your school grounds might have lots, or present challenges, or you could spot some from where you are sitting….
* Alternatively, you could ask older pupils to conduct their own scavenger hunt and source natural objects that they feel represent the 5 aspects of the story
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| Door Open**Gathering:** * Gather outdoors with your bags, ready to begin.
* Use our gathering words for the final time this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer.
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| Puzzle**Engaging:*** Begin with a few moments of reflection….

**As we begin our time today, we are here, together, outdoors….take a few moments to look around you….appreciate the beauty in the world of which we are a part…..take a few deep breaths as we start, and enjoy the feeling of being outdoors….*** Have a peep into your bag: we have leaves, stones and twigs – some objects from nature, from the world that Christians believe God created. Our bags contain all that we need to tell a very special story… a story that Christians all over the world will be thinking about over the next 2 weeks….a story that we will share together using words, and objects….
* ***Reading 1: Our story begins as Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. He was on his way to Jerusalem to celebrate a special time for Jews called Passover͘. People lined the streets shouting ‘Hosanna’ (which means saviour) and they took palm branches and waved them at Jesus, or laid them on the ground like a carpet. Some people even took their coats off and laid them on the ground͘. The crowd were pleased to see Jesus as they were expecting a new king of the Jews to come and save them.***
* *Raised hand with solid fill* Take your leaves out of your bag and make a small pile on the ground, just like the

 people did with their palm branches. As you create your pile, think about something that you are really looking forward to or are excited about…..then think about how excited the people were, imagining that Jesus would be the king who they had been waiting for, for hundreds of years…..As the crowds did then, let’s do a big ‘hip, hip….HOSANNA!’* ***Reading 2: A few days later, on the Thursday evening before Passover, Jesus shared a special meal with his 12 disciples that Christians call ‘The Last Supper’. During the meal Jesus took bread, and blessed it, telling his friends, ‘This bread is a symbol of my body that will be broken for you.’ He then blessed the wine and gave it to them saying ‘This is a symbol of my blood. When you eat bread, and drink wine together, remember me.’***
* *Raised hand with solid fill* We have something in our bags to help us to remember too…. Take out your little acorn

 cup and the small stone and gently place them on the ground in front of you. These help us to remember this part of the story, where Jesus sat around the table with his friends and asked them to **remember** him. They were puzzled and confused by what Jesus said, because they had no idea what would come next….Later that evening, Jesus was arrested by Roman soldiers and taken away……….. Christians today still share bread [lift the small stone] and wine [lift your acorn cup] and **remember Jesus.*** ***Reading 3: The next day was Friday. Jesus was taken to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate and sent to die on a cross. The cross has become a really important symbol for Christians all over the world to help them remember Jesus’ death, and so we are going to make some now.***
* *Raised hand with solid fill* Take the sticks out of your bag, and put a longer stick and a shorter stick together to

 make a cross to symbolise this sad part of the story. Make as many as you would like to, and as you do, let’s just be quiet….[don’t rush on here…]* ***Reading 4: Early on Sunday morning, some of Jesus’ friends who were women went to the tomb to sit and cry because they were very upset. When they got to the tomb, the stone was rolled away, and Jesus’ body was not there. Then the women saw an angel who told them, “Don’t be afraid! Go, and tell his disciples that Jesus is alive and not dead͘”.***
* *Raised hand with solid fill* Take the larger stone out of your bag and look at it. This stone is a symbol in our story for

*Raised hand with solid fill* this most important part of the Easter story: the resurrection, on Easter Day. There would have been a HUGE stone across the opening of the tomb and it would have needed several strong people to roll it away. Imagine how amazed the women would have been to see that the tomb was open, and that there was an angel standing there! Our stones are really small compared to the actual stone, and are easy to roll….let’s have a try\*\*! As you do, and we laugh together, think about the joy that the women shared, hearing the good news….* And now, finally, our bags are empty, just like the tomb – but we are going to find

 one more Easter symbol together, a sign for new life – which is the biggest message of the whole story….[allow children the appropriate time and scope for this] Just like we have found our new life, the women were found by Jesus – who was alive, just as the angel had told them he would be. The new life we see here is a reminder of the new life that Jesus had. |
| **Thought bubbleConcluding reflections (and words for worship):**Let’s be still and quiet together now….…as you are sitting, look at all the natural resources that we have used to represent this special story….….I wonder how these objects might help you to remember?.....*….*I wonder which remind you of excitement…or confusion….or sadness….or joy….or new life?....……. ….this story reminds us that there is room for all these things in our lives….…..….for people who are Christians, this story is also a reminder that God brought good out of bad and gave new life for old…..…..a truth to treasure!.....**Prayer:****Dear God,****May the sadness of good Friday make Easter Sunday more joyful.****Amen** |
| **Sending:****Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead…**All:** May this story give us hope. |

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| **Option 2: Easter Story Stones** |
| **Preparation:*** each child will need 5 stones, or stone shapes cut out of paper. ***NB You will also be ‘rolling’ these stones (here in the script***[***\*\****](#Story)***) with children, so ensure you set clear safety rules about NOT throwing them!!***
* each child will also need a felt pen or Sharpie (use with care, as they are permanent markers)
* You might find it easier to put the resources into paper bags for children to carry outdoors
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| Door Open**Gathering:** * Use our gathering words for the final time this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer.
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| Puzzle**Engaging:*** Begin with a few moments of reflection….

**As we begin our time today, we are here, together, outdoors….take a few moments to look around you….appreciate the beauty in the world of which we are a part…..take a few deep breaths as we start, and enjoy the feeling of being outdoors….*** Our stones are a part of this world…. the world that Christians believe God created, but we are going to turn them into a story…. a very special story that Christians all over the world will be thinking about over the next 2 weeks. So, get your stones and your pen ready, and we’ll begin.
* ***Reading 1: Our story begins as Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. He was on his way to Jerusalem to celebrate a special time for Jews called Passover͘. People lined the streets shouting ‘Hosanna’ (which means saviour) and they took palm branches and waved them at Jesus, or laid them on the ground like a carpet. Some people even took their coats off and laid them on the ground͘. The crowd were pleased to see Jesus as they were expecting a new king of the Jews to come and save them.***
* *Raised hand with solid fill* Draw onto your stone something that reminds you of this part of the story. As you do,

 think about something that you are really looking forward to or are excited about…..then think about how excited the people were, imagining that Jesus would be the king who they had been waiting for, for hundreds of years…..As the crowds did then, let’s do a big ‘hip, hip….HOSANNA!’* ***Reading 2: A few days later, on the Thursday evening before Passover, Jesus shared a special meal with his 12 disciples that Christians call ‘The Last Supper’. During the meal Jesus took bread, and blessed it, telling his friends, ‘This bread is a symbol of my body that will be broken for you.’ He then blessed the wine and gave it to them saying ‘This is a symbol of my blood. When you eat bread, and drink wine together, remember me.’***

*Raised hand with solid fill* Draw onto your stone something that reminds you of this part of the story. As you do, think about this part of the story, where Jesus sat around the table with his friends and asked them to **remember** him.* ***Reading 3: The next day was Friday. Jesus was taken to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate and sent to die on a cross. The cross has become a really important symbol for Christians all over the world to help them remember Jesus’ death, and so we are going to make some now.***
* *Raised hand with solid fill* Draw onto your stone something that reminds you of this sad part of the story. As you

 do, let’s just be quiet….[don’t rush on here…]* ***Reading 4: Early on Sunday morning, some of Jesus’ friends who were women went to the tomb to sit and cry because they were very upset. When they got to the tomb, the stone was rolled away, and Jesus’ body was not there. Then the women saw an angel who told them, “Don’t be afraid! Go, and tell his disciples that Jesus is alive and not dead͘”.***
* *Raised hand with solid fill* The next stone will remind us of another stone: the stone that rolled away! There would

 have been a HUGE stone across the opening of the tomb and it would have needed several strong people to roll it away. Imagine how amazed the women would have been to see that the tomb was open, and that there was an angel standing there! Our stones are really small compared to the actual stone, and are easy to roll….let’s have a try\*\*! As you do, and we laugh together, think about the joy that the women shared, hearing the good news… and now draw onto your stone something that reminds you of this part of the story.* *Raised hand with solid fill*And now, we have one final stone for the end of our story: and one more Easter symbol

 together. On this final stone, draw something that reminds you of **new life** – which is the biggest message of the whole story…. Jesus was alive, just as the angel had told them he would be. The new life we see here is a reminder of the new life that Jesus had.* You might like to spend some time telling each other the story using your story stones. They can be made more durable by painting PVA glue over the pictures and allowed to dry.
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| **Thought bubbleConcluding reflections (and words for worship):**Let’s be still and quiet together now….…as you are sitting, look at all the pictures that we have used to represent this special story….….I wonder how these stones might help you to remember?.....*….*I wonder which stones remind you of excitement…or confusion….or sadness….or joy….or new life?....……. ….this story reminds us that there is room for all these things in our lives….…..….for people who are Christians, this story is also a reminder that God brought good out of bad and gave new life for old…..…..a truth to treasure!.....**Prayer:****Dear God,****May the sadness of good Friday make Easter Sunday more joyful.****Amen** |
| **Sending:****Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead…**All:** May this story bring us hope. |