To the people of Bethlehem Stonepile UMC and Springvale UMC:

Here we are in the middle of Holy Week – and I’m sure it is a Holy Week like none of us has ever experienced before. It is certainly my hope that all of you are doing everything you can to stay safe. Understand that even in this time of social distancing and staying home the spiritual meaning of this special week does not change. Yes, this is a difficult week for us this year, but remember that it was both a difficult yet very busy week for Jesus as well.

Remember the happenings of this week in Jesus’ life.

Sunday was the entrance into Jerusalem – we call it the Triumphal Entry and it is recorded in all four Gospels.

Monday, according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke was the cleansing of the Temple. Like the Triumphal Entry this was another action that caused hatred of Jesus to grow among some of the Jews.

Tuesday and Wednesday – according to many scholars – were spent teaching in the Temple, being anointed in Bethany, and on one of the days the plot against Jesus between Judas and the chief priests was agreed upon.

Thursday we find Jesus celebrating the Passover meal with the disciples and leading them in the first Communion. And then the agony in Gethsemane where Jesus said, “The sorrow in my heart is so great it almost crushes me.” That has always been such a powerful statement for me in understanding the anguish of that night. (Don’t forget if you would like to share Maundy Thursday Communion be online at 7:00 for our livestream.)

Of course, then we have the trial and crucifixion on Friday.

What a week for Jesus and his disciples. What a week for we who are disciples now! Yes, we want to be together to both anguish and then to celebrate, but just know that one day we will do that. For now, join us online Maundy Thursday, (7:00) Good Friday, (anytime after 12:00 noon) and Easter morning at 10:00. Though we cannot be together in the same room, **it is still Holy Week and it will still be Easter Morning. We can remember and celebrate!**