



EMBRACING *Easter*

A collaboration from Emily Clare Sims and Kyneton Baptist

A warm Welcome



Easter is a time of remembering, a time of loving, and a time of hope...

We warmly welcome you to Embrace Easter in your home this year. You may be thinking: what does this even look like? Many of us have grown up with certain rituals and traditions for the season: meals we always eat, church services we always attended, activities and events we always plan with family and friends. Perhaps this season is unfamiliar to you and the thought of celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus perplexes you. Regardless of your background, beliefs or reservations, we want to invite you to join us in celebrating Easter.

There is no “right” way to celebrate Easter, and this year as we find ourselves home-bound and socially distant, we feel there is need more than ever to explore fresh ways to savor this time. Our hope is that Embracing Easter at home will bring us back to the basics of faith: to the joy we have been given in Jesus, a renewed sense of God’s love for us, fresh connection to his beautiful creation, and restoration in our relationships with each other.

How to use this book

You will find eight days worth of reflections, scriptures, prayers, poems, activities, recipes and colouring-in pages - starting on Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. Treat this as a guide; a starting point for you to embrace the season with playfulness and intention. Feel free to skip over the activities that don’t interest you or your family. Experiment, tinker, improvise with what you already have available in your homes.



Day one:

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday begins the week of Easter or “Holy Week” as it’s often called. On the very first Palm Sunday Jesus rode a donkey into the city of Jerusalem where he preached in the great temple. Huge crowds of people met Jesus as he entered the city, pulling off their coats and shawls and breaking palm fronds and olive branches to wave in welcome and lay at his feet. The people had heard stories of Jesus’ teaching and miracles, they were excited to meet this man unlike any other. For hundreds of years people of faith have twisted palm fronds into tiny crosses - you may have seen them before - as reminders of this special day. Older kids and adults might like to look up an online tutorial on how to fold crosses out of palm fronds or strips of paper.

Read: *John 12:12-16*

The next day the great crowd had come for the festival that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is this king of Israel” Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt”. At first the disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realise that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Read: *Matthew 21:5*

Your king comes to you. He is gentle and riding on a donkey.

Prayer of the Donkey:

God, who made me
to trudge along the road, always,
to carry heavy loads, always,
Give me great courage and gentleness.
One day let somebody understand me—
that I may no longer want to weep
because I can never say what I mean
and they make fun of me.
Let me find a juicy thistle—
and make them give me time to pick it.
And, Lord, one day, let me find again
my little brother of the Christmas crib.

by Carmen Bernos de Gasztole

Reflect:

- Why do you think people took off their coats and waved palm branches at Jesus as he approached the city?
- What would you do if you knew a famous person - and someone you couldn't wait to meet - was about to walk down your street?
- Notice how Jesus chose to ride a donkey into the city. Kings would have ridden horses as they were much finer and expensive to keep - but donkeys were the animal of common, ordinary people to help carry loads. Jesus chose a donkey to fulfill a prophecy in the old testament (look up Zechariah 9:9) and as a sign of his humility - in modern times this would be like the Queen doing a royal visit riding on her bicycle instead of being driven in a fancy car and with security!
- Let's pray and thank Jesus for coming as a gentle and humble, loving King.



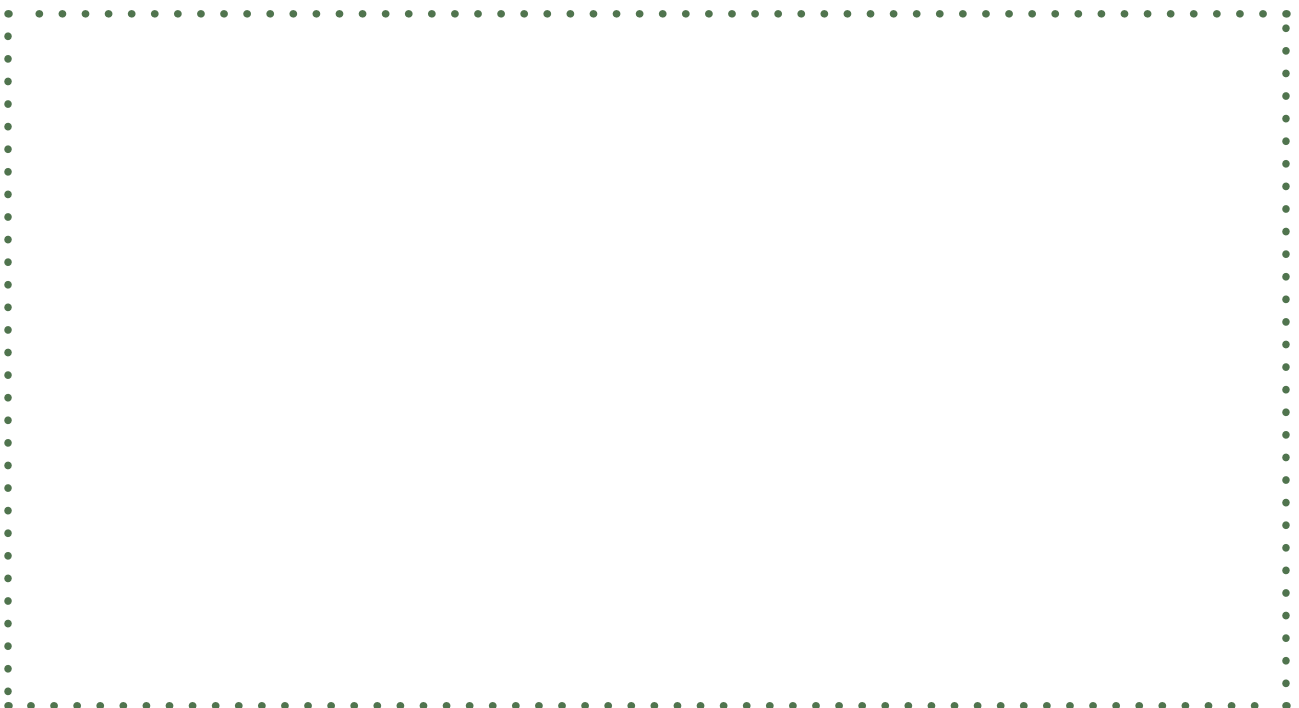
Play:

“How many kinds of...”

This is a fun game to play with kids and adults of all ages! Take turns choosing something to count: for example “how many kinds of leaves are in the garden... how many insects are in the grass... how many kinds of smells are in the kitchen spice rack... how many kinds of sounds are in the house right now... how many colours of books are in the bookshelf...” Count as many examples as you can of that one thing!

Make:

Leaf Shading | If you can, go outside and find some different shaped leaves to “shade” in the box below. Arrange your leaves flat under the page. Carefully - with light pressure - begin to shade with a pencil or crayon on the paper. Watch as the outline of the leaf emerges...



Day two:

Monday



Why do we have eggs at Easter? In Europe, before people knew about Jesus, the egg was a sacred symbol of new life, fertility and hope. Festivals were held around the time of the Spring Equinox and included feasts and rituals that the whole community would come together for. Many of these traditions were incorporated and adapted into faith life. For followers of Jesus the Easter egg is a special symbol - it is hollow just like the empty tomb of Jesus. And like a bird hatching from an egg with life, it is a reminder that Jesus rose from the grave and those who believe in him will also know new life in body, heart and mind.

Read:

Who was Jesus? Read these bible verses to see how Jesus describes himself to his followers in the gospel of John.

John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 10:9

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

John 14:16

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 15:1

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener"

Easter Egg Poem:

The Easter egg is hollow,
just like they found the tomb;
for it is meant to represent
Christ has risen for you!

Reflect:

- What does an egg make you think of?
- Can you remember the ways Jesus describes himself? Which one stands out the most to you and why?
- Let's pray and thank Jesus for being the 'greatest Easter egg of all', a symbol of hope and new life for each and every one of us!

Make:

Dyed Easter Eggs Three Ways | For many hundreds of years people have celebrated Easter through the eating, painting, staining - or dyeing - of eggs red to remember the blood of Jesus which was shed in his death and the new life and hope we have because of it. Here are three different ways you can dye fresh eggs.



Crayon Resist Dyeing

This is probably the easiest and less messy way to decorate eggs with smaller children as they will be handling eggs that have already been hard boiled and so won't crack on them.

You will need:

- Fresh Eggs
- Wax crayons
- Food dye

Method: Hard boil some eggs. Let them cool to room temperature.

Next draw patterns on the eggs using wax-based crayons or even a beeswax candle. Coloured crayons work really well! Next dye the eggs in a bath of water + food colouring dye. You can make a food colouring dye by mixing 3/4 cup of warm water + 1 tablespoon white vinegar + 10 drops of food colouring. Submerge the eggs for at least 5 minutes, set the eggs aside to dry!



Gradient Colour Dyeing

You will need:

- Fresh eggs
- Food dye

Method: Hard boil your eggs.

Prepare a series of dye baths by combining 3/4 cup warm water + 1 tablespoon vinegar + 10 drops of food colouring. You might like to make 3-4 separate dye baths but increase/decrease the amount of food colouring or have different colours like red and blue.

Next hold one end of your egg in the dye bath for 3-5 minutes. Drip off the excess and hold the opposite end in a different dye bath (so you have two different coloured ends) and finally plunge in further into the third stronger/weaker/different coloured dye bath. Experiment with colour combinations and lengths of time in the dye, you are trying to achieve some gradient lines of colour on the eggs.



Onion Skin Easter Eggs

It's best to plan ahead for this one by storing onion skins in a bag in the fridge or freezer over the week as they are used in cooking.

You will need:

- Onion skins or purple cabbage leaves work well too!
- Fresh Eggs
- Small leaves or garden flowers
- Flesh-coloured stocking
- Rubber bands

Method: Place onion skins or purple cabbage leaves in a large saucepan. Next attach rubber bands to the raw eggs - alternatively you can carefully arrange flat leaves and flowers on the outside of the eggs and use the pantyhose stocking to keep them in place (you will need to cut the stock up) - secure with a rubber band. Cover the eggs and skins with water - about 2cm above the eggs. Bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Carefully remove the eggs and let them cool before removing rubber bands and/or stockings and leaves. You should see faint patterns on the eggs from the bands and leaves.

Day three:

Tuesday



Yesterday we explored the meaning behind eggs at Easter, and the ways they can symbolise hope, new life and also the hollow grave on Easter Sunday. But how about chickens - how might they relate to Easter? At one point in the bible Jesus describes himself as a mother hen wanting to gather it's baby chicks - that's all of us - under her wings in care and protection. Have you ever seen the way a hen hides her chickens under her wings? It's quite an extraordinary sight, the chicks can be completely hidden and safe in her feathers - the only thing that gives them away is the tiny chirping noises!

Read: *Matthew 23:37*

How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me...

Poem:

A white hen sitting
On white eggs three:
Next, three speckled chickens
As plump as plump can be.
An owl, and a hawk,
And a bat come to see:
But chicks beneath their mother's wing
Squat safe as safe can be.

by Christina Georgina Rossetti



Reflect:

- How might Jesus want to gather us together and protect us like a hen and her baby chicks?
- Have a bit of fun: try to make your best impressions of a hen and her chicks with actions and sounds!

Make:

Blown Easter Eggs | Blown eggs are eggs that have had the gooey insides “blown” out of them. They are then carefully dyed, painted or drawn on with markers. You could even glue stickers or coloured paper on them. They are extremely light-weight when blown and make beautiful decorations to put around the house or hang on an Easter Tree (more on that tomorrow!). This activity is suitable for older children. Please supervise children while they use the safety pin!



You will need:

- Fresh eggs
- A safety pin
- Toothpick
- Plastic straw
- A bowl

Method:

Sit an egg in its egg carton or a egg cup to steady it. Next tap and push a hole into the top centre of the egg with your safety pin. Once you have made the hole, carefully push the end of the pin down to widen the hole. Insert the toothpick into the hole and turn it around inside the egg to break up the yolk and make it easier to blow. Flip the egg over and make a second hole on the opposite side with your pin. Try to make the hole on

the bottom a little bit bigger - but be careful not to crack the egg as you go! Hold the egg over a measuring jug or bowl with the bigger hole facing down. Gently guide the end of your draw into the top of the egg and blow - egg should begin to come out of the bottom hole. It can take a minute to get going - so be patient. You'll know it's all out when the egg feels lite and only bubbles of air come out. You can wash it carefully in some water and then let it dry. Decorate it with whatever you like: pens, paint, dye, glue and tissue paper, stickers!

What to do with the runny eggs you blew out? Why not try making some delicious lemon butter. You could even make double the recipe and leave a jar by the door of your neighbour.



Lemon Butter Recipe:

You will need:

- 3/4 cup caster sugar
- 2 whole eggs + 2 egg yolks
- Zest and juice of two lemons (you can also use limes, oranges, grapefruit, or even passionfruit)
- 80g butter



Method:

Place eggs and sugar together in a small saucepan and whisk vigorously together. Next add lemon juice + zest and butter and beat together. Next place the saucepan on the stove on a low/gentle heat, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon until the mixture darkens and thickens - it will take about 5 minutes. Be careful not to let the butter on the bottom of the saucepan burn. Once the mixture has thickened you can pour it directly into glass jars. Store in the refrigerator.

Day four:

Wednesday



We've seen how eggs and chickens relate to Easter, how about trees? What might they represent to us at this time? Traditionally trees have been symbols of faith, wisdom, transformation and liberation. Do you know that the image of the tree is actually used repeatedly throughout the bible. Jesus dies on a tree - a cross made from the wood of a tree - just as it was said in the Old Testament. And like Jesus, trees give life - they provide safety, shelter, sustenance and substance. In the natural world trees have sophisticated root systems that keep the ground stable and nourish many creatures and fungi. Their leaves produce oxygen so that we can breathe and even their sap or resin can be used to make medicine and other useful things.

Read:

Psalm 1:3

He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not
wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Matthew 13:31-32

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed,
which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is
smaller than all seeds. But when it is grown, it is greater
than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of
the air come and nest in its branches.

A poem of faith

The tiny mustard seed
not so easy to see,
when planted in your garden
becomes the greatest of
herbs, a tree
Like the tiny mustard seed,
a little faith works, too.
Command your mountains
to move away;
All will be possible for you.

Reflect:

- ☛ Can you see some trees growing in your garden or perhaps even out the window. How old do you think it is?
- ☛ Can you count the branches? Can you see any birds or animals living in it?
- ☛ Let's pray and thank Jesus for the image of the tree at Easter: for the tree that he willingly went to die on so that we might know life, for the wisdom we can know when trust God with our whole lives, for the ways out faith starts small as a mustard seed that can grow and grow and one day provide nourishment to those around us.

Make:

Easter Tree Decoration | Make an “Easter Tree” as a decoration in your homes to remind us of the life-giving powers of Jesus and the way our own faith can start small and grow and grow.



You will need:

- A small pot, jug, vase
- Sand or gravel or small stones
- A full branch - gum tree branches work well, so do olives or laurel branches!
- Scissors, ribbon or sticky tape.

Method:

Support the branch in the pot or vase using sand or stones to keep it in place. You will want to show it in a prominent place in your house like the living room or even the kitchen table. Colour in the Easter shapes on pg.27. You could use pen, pencils or even watercolour paint. Cut the shapes out and attach them to your tree. You might even like to use some of the blown eggs you made yesterday to hang in the branches or cut little pieces of ribbon. Get creative! Use whatever lovely things you can find to decorate the tree.

Make:

Finikia Cookies | These delicious walnut + orange cookies are inspired by a traditional Greek recipe that is made for celebrations and especially around Easter time. You might like to make a double batch and drop a jar off for a neighbour or friend as a special Easter gift.



You will need:

- 125g butter softened,
- 110 cup caster sugar,
- Finely grated zest of 1 orange
- 125ml fresh orange juice
- 125ml vegetable or olive oil
- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 1/2 cups semolina
- 1/2 cup ground walnuts
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp each of ground cinnamon, cloves and ginger

For the syrup:

- 1 cup water,
- 1/2 cup caster sugar,
- 1 cup honey,
- 1 cinnamon stick,
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice,
- 1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts
(you can use pistachios too)

Method:

Preheat moderate oven (180°C) and line baking trays with paper. In a large bowl cream the butter, sugar and orange rind until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, semolina, baking powder, cinnamon and cloves - beat into creamed mixture alternately with the orange juice. Turn out mixture onto a floured surface and knead until a firm dough. Pinch off tablespoons of dough and form them into ovals. Place the biscuits 5cm apart on the baking trays. Bake for 25 minutes or till golden. Cool biscuits on trays to room temperature.

Meanwhile make the syrup; over medium heat combine water, sugar, honey, lemon juice and cinnamon stick. Bring to a boil and then boil for 10 minutes. Remove cinnamon stick. While mixture is boiling hot dip the biscuits in with tongs (I placed mine on top of a metal potato masher) - making sure to cover them completely. Place finikia on a wire rack to dry and sprinkle with walnuts - it's good to put some paper towel under the racks to catch the sticky drips. Enjoy!

Day five:

Maundy Thursday



On the first Maundy Thursday Jesus and his disciples gathered for the Jewish holiday of passover - a traditional meal of lamb, unleavened bread, wine and bitters. This meal would come to be known as “the last supper” as it was the last dinner Jesus shared with his beloved friends and followers - the twelve disciples whose names were: **Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Thaddeus and Judas.** Before the meal Jesus washed the feet of these twelve men - no doubt dirty and dusty from wearing sandals - the “washing of the feet” is a custom many churches around the world still practice on this day to remember how we are to live in kindness and service to each other.

Read: *John 13:1-4*

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the enemy had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

The Lamb

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing woolly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.

Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

by William Blake

Reflect:

- Have you ever had someone wash your feet? Have you ever washed someone else's?
- What other ways might you show service to people in your family/community/school?
- Jesus is referred to as the "Lamb of God" or Agnus Dei as it's known in Latin. Do you know where this reference came from? Hint: you might like to read the story of Abraham and Isaac in the bible (Genesis, Chapter 22: 1-22).

Make:

Passover Flat Bread Recipe | You will need:

- 4 cups wholewheat flour
- 1 cup white flour
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 1/4 cup oil

Method: Combine all ingredients in a bowl or processor and mix until combined. Roll out dough flat using a rolling pin to about 2cm thick. Place on a baking tray lined with baking paper or well greased and floured. Using a bread knife score the dough into squares - about 4cm in size. Bake in a hot oven at 200°C for 15 minutes or until lightly golden. Cool.



Play:

Foot Washing | You will need:

- A large plastic tub or bucket
- Soap + wash cloth
- Clean dry towels

How-to:

Fill the plastic tub with warm water. One by one take turns washing the feet of the people in your family. Get them to sit on a chair, place the tub of water over a clean dry towel to catch any spills. Using soap and a wash cloth, gently wash their feet and dry with a second dry towel. Be prepared for splashes as foot washing can tickle!

Day six:

Good Friday



Good Friday is the day we remember the death of Jesus on the cross. Despite being called “good” it can feel like a sad and solemn day. For those of us who follow Jesus it is a opportunity to really slow down and consider the sacrifice God made in sending his own precious son - Jesus - to the cross, where he truly suffered, so that we might be reconciled with him. There are many times love involves some suffering or sacrifice - in a way, a mother going through the pangs of childbirth, willingly suffers so that her body can birth a beautiful new baby. In another way, the community right now is choosing to sacrifice their freedom of movement and socialisation - willingly staying at home, washing our hands, sharing resources, compromising our work and life situations - in order to protect more vulnerable people from illness. Although we feel sad to remember the suffering of Jesus, we also feel expectant hope and joy of what's to come in two-days times on Easter morning...

Read: *Luke 23:33-43*

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under

the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

You might like to sing this beautifully simple, meditative Taize song based on the words of the thief who was dying beside Jesus:

***“Jesus, remember me
Jesus, remember me
Jesus, remember me
When you come into your kingdom”***

Look up YouTube for the melody of the song “Taize Jesus, Remember Me”, the words are repeated over and over.

Reflect:

- Love can often involve sacrifice - can you think of any sacrifices you or your family has had to make out of love? Perhaps there are stories passed down in your family of older relatives who had to make sacrifices or suffer in order to provide for their families or give their children new opportunities?
- Jesus died upon a cross, and so the cross has become a symbol of hope and faith for His followers. Look about your home and neighbourhood for crosses - they can come up in so many places and be made out of all kinds of materials.
- Mexican children make traditional cross shapes using sticks and brightly coloured wool, you might like to find some sticks and string or wool and shape your own crosses.

Make:

Hot Cross Buns (Gluten Free) | You will need:

- 1 cup warm milk (any kind will do)
- 1/2 cup rice sourdough starter OR extra 1/4 cup milk
- 1 1/2 tsp natural dried yeast
- 2 tablespoons sugar/ honey
- 2 tablespoons olive oil or melted butter
- 2 whole eggs
- 1/3 cup psyllium husks
- 1/2 rice flour
- 1/2 cup buckwheat flour
- 1/2 cup arrowroot/tapioca starch
- 2 tsp Ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp Ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp Ground ginger
- 3/4 cups soaked dried fruit of your choosing.
- Zest and juice of 1 orange + 1 lemon

Method:

Whisk all of the above in a large bowl. Next add your flours, spices and fruit. Stir to combine - don't over mix as this will compact the flours. It should look like a wet dough - the consistency of thick, lumpy soup.

Cover bowl with a clean tea towel and let it rest for 30 minutes. When you come back to it the mixture should seem firmer and more dough like. The psyllium husks help absorb the moisture without making it too dry. If it's still "sloppy" add an extra 1/4 cup each of the flours mentioned above.

Now, grease your hands with olive oil and scoop out a big heaped tablespoon of dough at a time - the oil on your hands will stop the dough sticking. Place balls close to each other on a baking tray lined with paper or dusted with GF flour. Once all the dough has been shaped into buns - cover them with a tea towel and let them sit to rise in a warm place.

Next make your crosses by mixing together:

- 4 tablespoons plain GF flour (or 2 tablespoons each of rice flour and tapioca starch)
- 2 teaspoons of olive oil
- 2 tablespoons water

Whisk together in a small bowl or jug. It should be a thin paste consistency. Add more flour or water as needed to achieve this. Scoop paste into a piping bag or a plastic zip lock bag (which you can easily snip the corner off). Pipe crosses onto each bun.

Bake buns in a hot oven at 190-200°C for 15-25 minutes depending on the size of your buns. They should look golden in colour when baked. While the buns are hot - brush them with warmed marmalade/apricot jam or honey over the buns. You need about 3 tablespoons of jam for the lot - I find this is a wonderful way to use up the jam or marmalade nobody seems to be eating. These buns are best enjoyed warm! Eat then within 3 days or slice up and freeze for another time.

Sing the Hot Cross Bun song:

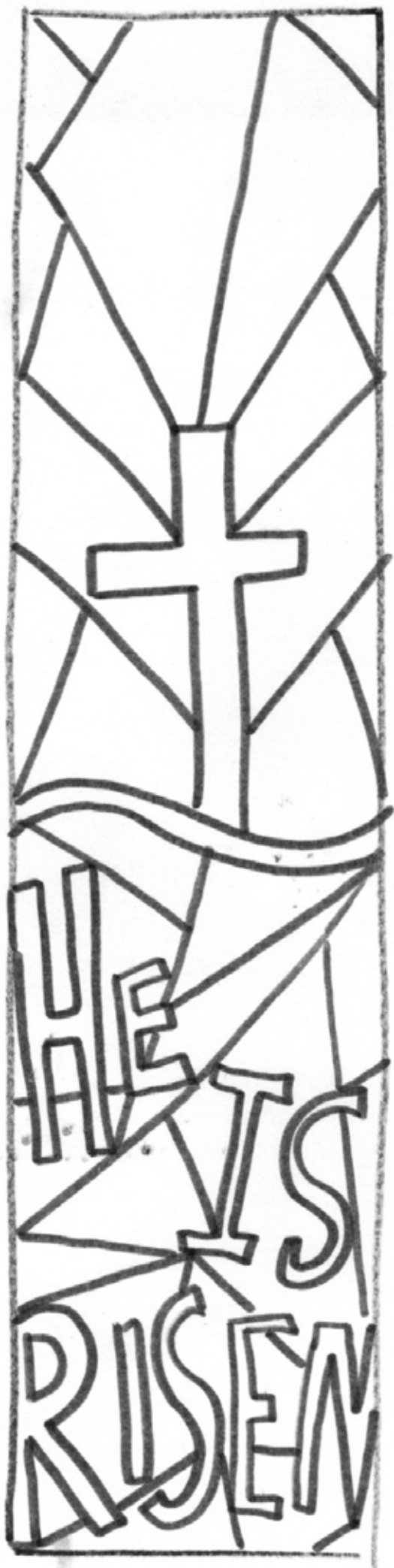
Hot cross buns.
Hot cross buns.
One a penny, two a penny.
Hot cross buns.
Give them to your daughters.
Give them to your sons.
One a penny, two a penny.
Hot cross buns.



Make:

Easter Bookmarks | You will find the outline of two bookmarks on the following page for you to decorate, colour in and cut out. Why not make one for a friend and pop it in their post box with a letter wishing them a happy Easter holiday?





Day seven:

Easter Saturday



Easter Saturday is traditionally a day dedicated to prayer and often a large candle called the **Paschal candle** is lit in many churches around the world. We imagine that on the very first Easter Saturday the family, friends and followers of Jesus would have been praying with all their might, they would also have been overcome with sadness and grief at his death. Prayer is a way we can talk directly to God and offer up our thoughts, feelings, hopes and fears. Find time today to talk to God, or light a candle and say a prayer for the world that is right now struggling with uncertainty and the grief of illness and loss. Some people like to pray on their own, silently, others like to speak the words out loud. You might find it easier to walk as you “pray” or sit on the ground outside and hear the sounds of nature around you.

Read: *Philippians 4:6*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Reflect:

- Have you ever prayed to God before?
- Think of different ways you can pray (alone, with others, indoors, outdoors, silently, spoken) and what your preference might be?
- Write a list of people you think might need prayer right now: first think of people in your family, then your neighbourhood, school, city, country, world...

Make:

A Paschal Candle Wreath |

Make an Easter Candle wreath as a symbol of your commitment to pray today. Keep the candle alight all day if you can (in a safe spot!) like on the kitchen table and every time you see it flickering remember to pray for anyone on your list, for the world, or a simple thanksgiving for Jesus, the Light of the world.

You will need:

- A large plate, platter or shallow wooden bowl.
- Fresh or dried flowers, leaves, nuts, acorns, leaves, greenery.
- A pillar candle or any other you wish to use.

Method:

Arrange flowers and leaves and nuts around the edge of the plate. Place the candle in the centre and light it as a sign of your commitment to prayer today. You might like to read this traditional Paschal Candle prayer, or this beautiful poem.

Traditional Prayer:

***May the light of Christ
In Glory rising again,
Dispel the darkness of
Heart and mind.***

Poem:

On Easter Saturday night,
A flickering flame burns bright,
The Paschal Candle a vigil keeps,
While the busy world is hushed and sleeps

by Joan Mellings



Play:

Make a doughy Easter scene | Make a doughy Easter scene on a plate using play dough. Find the recipe below or use your own favourite recipe. Gather sticks, pebbles, flowers, nuts, seeds and stones from the garden to use in your scene. You might like to make the garden where Jesus was buried in the cave, using a big stone to roll over the entrance. Use your imagination and explore the different textures and patterns nature can make in the dough. Big kids will enjoy this too!

Play-dough Recipe | You will need:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup fine salt
- 2 tbsp oil
- 4 tbs cream of tartar
- 2 cups water
- Few drops food colouring

Method:

Mix all the ingredients in a saucepan and stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes, until the mixture thickens and comes away from the sides of the pan. Tip out onto a clean plate and roll dough into a ball and let it cool before playing with it.



Day eight:

Easter Sunday



Joy has come! It rises with the Son, He the highest on the horizon! All around the world people are waking up at dawn to watch the sun rise and remember that on the first Easter Sunday, Jesus conquered the grave and rose from the dead just as he said he would! Today is a day of joy and feasting: a day to celebrate the new life and new beginnings we have in Jesus. It is a day to show the people in our family that we love and care for them, just as God cares for us and all of creation.

Why don't you go outside at dawn to watch the sun rise? Children find this especially exciting to be woken up early and carried outside to sit on a picnic rug wrapped in a blanket and watch the sky go from dark to light. You might like to sing "This is the day that the Lord has made" from Psalm 118: 24.

Read: *John 20: 1-18*

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"...

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognise him. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

"Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

Sing Together:

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord
has made

We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it,

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made!



Make:

Resurrection Day Pancakes |

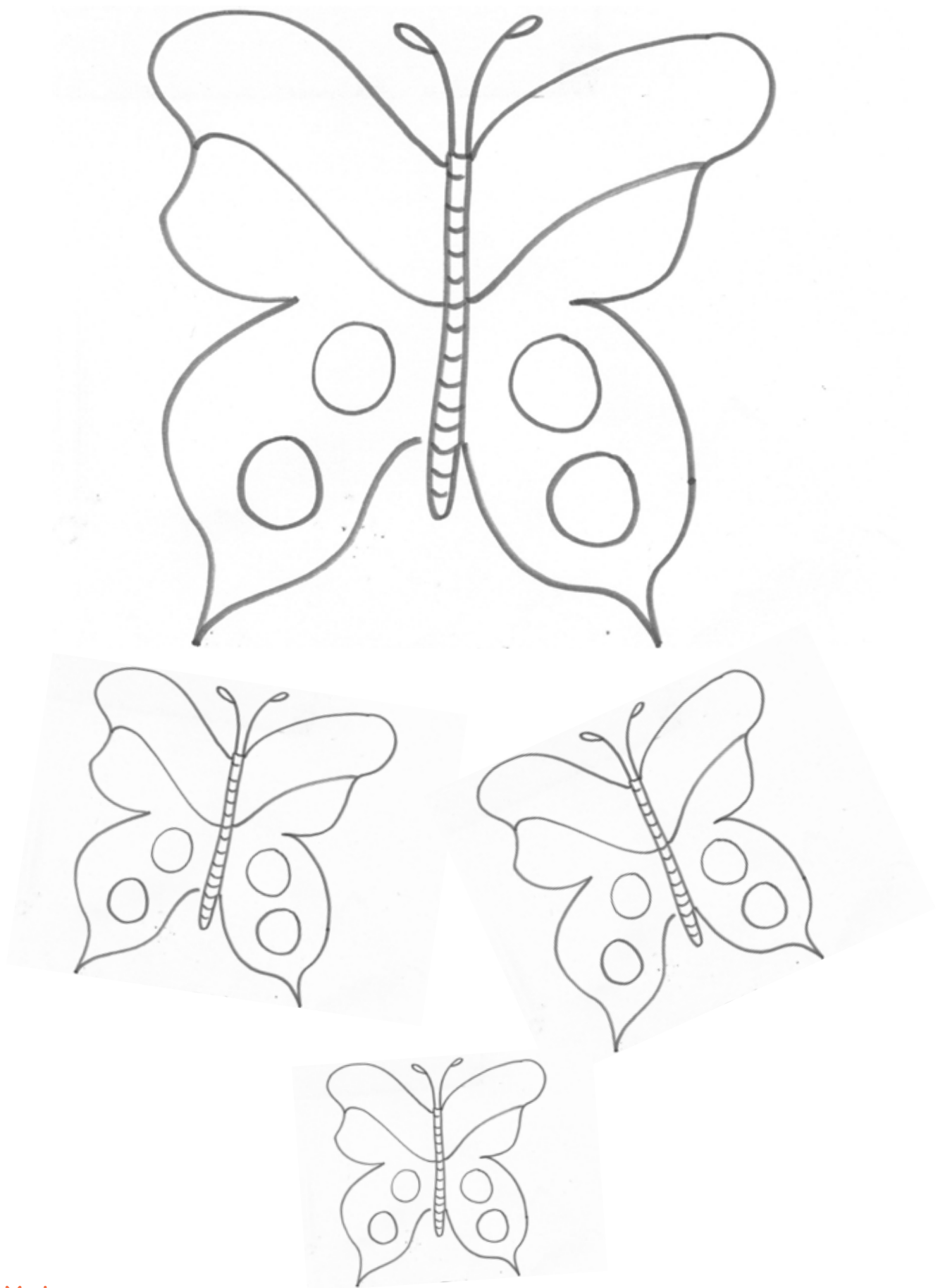
Who doesn't love pancakes on Sunday morning? Being stuck at home is no better excuse for taking longer to enjoy and savour breakfast on this special Easter Sunday morning. Kids love to help mix the batter. For a bit of fun you can try to pour the shapes of an egg, bunny, cross or heart in the pan.

Pancakes | You will need:

- 2 large free range eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk (any kind will do) or buttermilk
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 cups plain GF flour or wheat flour
- 1/2 cup buckwheat flour
- 1/2 cup skim milk powder (makes the pancakes extra fluffy and soft)
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- Pinch salt

Method:

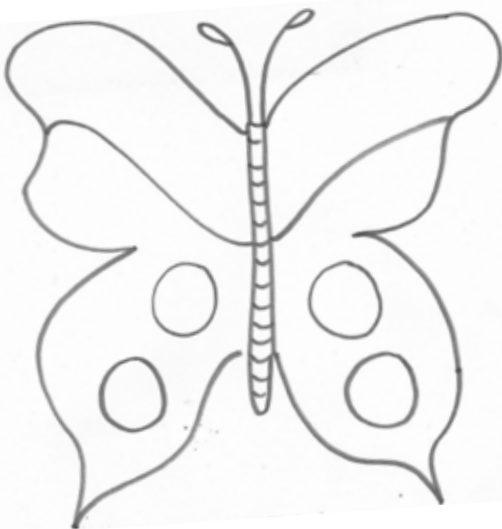
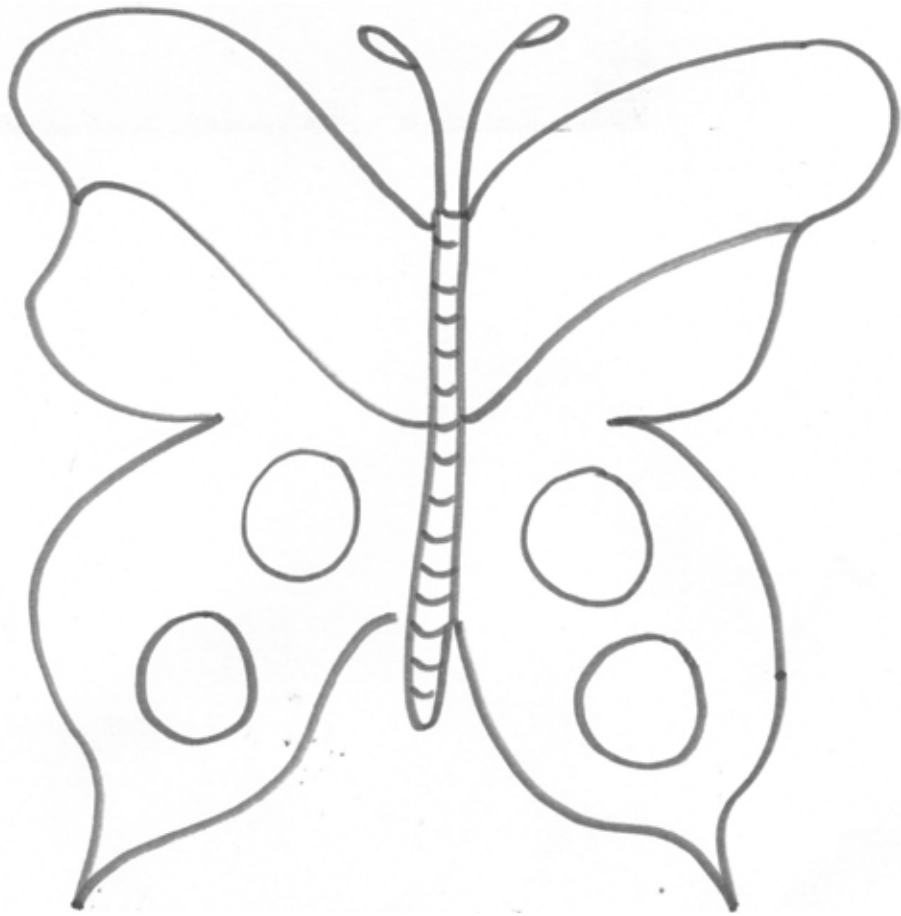
In a small bowl whisk together flours, milk powder and baking powder. In a separate larger bowl beat eggs with a fork – then alternate adding spoons of flour mixture and milk in small amounts, whisking well between each. Stir in melted butter. The batter improves if it's allowed to sit at room temperature for 20 minutes before cooking – but it isn't absolutely necessary. Spoon into a hot frypan on medium heat (add a little butter before if not using a non-stick pan) and flip over once bubbles appear all over.



Make:

Butterfly Art |

Butterflies have long represented new life and rebirth. Pattern and colour the butterfly outlines above - cut them out and stick them around your house or on the table for lunch as a decorative reminder of the new life we have in Jesus.



Play:

Chocolate egg hunt

Find tiny chocolate eggs around your house and garden and then have a big hunt to find them all. Works best if the adult does the hiding while no-one is looking and the kids get to hunt!

Egg and Spoon Race

You will need:

- Fresh or boiled eggs
- Large soup or dessert spoons

How-to: Practice your co-ordination skills and race as fast as you can down a specified path while balancing your egg on your spoon. Whoever gets to the end first, without cracking their egg, wins! It's much harder to do - and messier - with raw eggs! For an extra challenge you can try to race with one hand tucked behind your back.

Egg Toss

You will need:

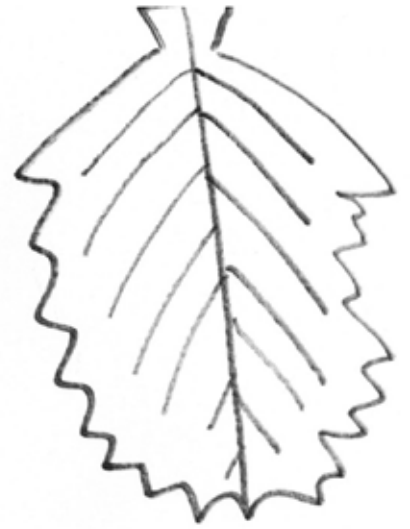
- Fresh or boiled eggs - your dyed Easter eggs from earlier in the week would be perfect!

How-to: See who can toss their egg the longest/highest - this can get messy so it's best played outside. Hills work especially well for the tossing!



An Easter Blessing

May the glad dawn
of Easter morn
Bring joy to you
May the calm Eve
of Easter leave
Peace with you.





KYNETON
BAPTIST CHURCH

Written by Emily Clare Sims.