



# Focus on Christ

*OUR MISSION: God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.*

## Interim pastor's newsletter message, April 2017

The people praising Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey threw their cloaks on the ground before him and waved palm branches, shouting, *"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"*

Here's why this is amazing:

- \* "Hosanna!" means "Save us!" It is also a word of praise.
- \* The procession into Jerusalem is a dangerous political act – something a conquering hero would do.
- \* Riding a donkey is a sign of humility and peace.

Jesus is hailed as a prophet – one who fulfills what was foretold: *"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* (Mt. 21:5) Jesus is the savior who the people have been praying for – but not in the way they expected. They hoped for a king who would overthrow the "bad guys" and put the "good guys" in power.

As do we. Wouldn't we love a savior who would dislike the same people we dislike and always side with us and bring justice (as defined by us)?

But that's not God's justice.

Jesus opens our eyes to God's justice – and when God's justice is seen through the eyes of Christ it leads to serving with the heart of Christ.

*"This is my body, given for you. This is my blood, shed for you."*

This month the gospel readings will place us in the palm procession, at the Last Supper, at the foot of the cross. And outside a tomb...

What do we think, feel, see, hear, smell and taste when we put ourselves in these places? What are we asking for when we shout "Hosanna! Save us!"? What do we experience in the bread and wine Jesus offers? What do we experience in the shadow of the cross? What do we experience outside that tomb, its stone door rolled aside?

When we shout "Hosanna!" on Palm/Passion Sunday (April 9), we do so with an understanding of the true salvation we have in Christ: that God's self-giving love overcomes all human division and pain, and we are called to live in and out of that love. So when we join with believers everywhere shouting "Hosanna! Save us!" we cry out for those who are hungry and thirsty and homeless and lonely and sick to be saved from their suffering. We cry out for ourselves to be saved from the greed, apathy and self-centeredness that cause us to turn a blind eye to the suffering around us. We cry out to be saved from all that separates us from God and from one another and from the wholeness God desires for all creation.

Please plan to participate in the special worship services that reveal the power of self-giving love: Maundy Thursday (April 13), which includes potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m., both starting in the church hall; Good Friday (April 14) worship in the sanctuary at noon and at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary with the joint-confirmation-program congregations at 7 p.m.; Easter Vigil (April 15) starting in the parking lot at 7 p.m.; and Easter Sunday (April 16) worship at 10 a.m. (pancake breakfast before). Invite friends and family to come, too! Pastor Lori



Christ  
Lutheran  
Church

A Christ-  
caring  
community

780 Ashbury  
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California

510 524-1050

Rev. Lori Eickmann  
Interim Pastor

Marty Schaefer  
Organist

Melissa Vainio  
Bell Choir Director

George Fosselius  
Choir Director

Bill Goehring  
Office Manager



April 2017

# The weeks to come

Sun., April 2	10 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., April 3	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., April 4	4:30 PM 6:30 PM 7 PM	Girl Scouts Worship Team Mtg. AA Meeting
Wed., April 5	7 PM 7:30 PM 8:15 PM	Holden Evening Prayer Bell Choir Choir
Thur., April 6	7 PM	UCC Choir
Sat., April 8	6 PM	AA Mtg.
Sun., April 9	10 AM 11 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Women's Bible Study Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., April 10	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., April 11	3:30 PM 7 PM	Vale AA Mtg.
Wed., April 12	7 PM 8 PM	Bell Choir Choir
Thur., April 13	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship
Fri., April 14	12 PM 7 PM	CLC Good Friday Good Friday Liturgy at PLTS
Sat., April 15	6 PM 7 PM	AA Mgt Easter Vigil
Sun., April 16	8:30 10 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Easter Sunday Breakfast Easter Worship Easter Egg Hunt Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., April 17	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., April 18	4:30 PM 7 PM	Girl Scouts AA Mtg.
Wed., April 19	7 PM 8 PM	Bell Choir Choir
Thur., April 20	7 PM	UCC Choir
Sat., April 22	6 PM	AA Mtg.

## Celebrating in Our Community

**April 2** Lysle Patterson  
Cindy Forgang

**April 6** Anniversary of  
Kevin and Becky Osman  
Adam Thomas Barton

**April 11** Anniversary of  
Doug & Nancy Merritt  
Cordell Britt

**April 12** Randy Mayer

**April 17** Ariella Bjelland

**April 22** Judy Wolfe

**April 24** Angel Ponce-Larsen

**April 27** Cielo Ponce-Larsen

**April 30** Anniversary of  
Liz & Mike Smith

## Interim Ministry Update

Thanks to everyone who participated in the congregational review survey and the cottage meetings. Thanks also to the call committee members for taking notes at the meetings. After Easter I will compile their notes, a few of my own, and the survey responses and report back at the end of the month. The participation has been excellent; your comments, observations and questions are invaluable as we continue to consider life and ministry, and the past, present and future of Christ Lutheran! — Pastor Lori

### "Can you hear me now"?

Thanks to Brian Reynolds, you should be able to hear the pastor's message loud and clear. Brian donated the microphone headset in honor of his 10 years with our congregation. Not only does Brian usher, keep our candles burning and sets up communion but he records all the services. We give our thanks to Brian for his devotion and service to our congregation.

### Continued

Sun., April 23	10 AM 11:30 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Steering Team Mtg. Mira Vista Service Al-Anon
Mon., April 24	9 AM – 2 PM 7 PM	Senior Center Opera Group
Tues., April 25	3:30 PM 7 PM	Vale AA Mtg.
Wed., April 26	5:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	WOW Bell Choir Choir
Thurs., April 27	6 PM 7 PM	GRIP Sandwich Making UCC Choir
Fri., April 28	10:30 AM	GRIP Serving
Sat., April 29	6 PM	AA Mtg.
Sun., April 30	10 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Worship Mira Vista Service Al-Anon

Second Mile  
Giving for the  
month of April  
**BREAD FOR THE**  
**WORLD**

**Please bring**  
**Easter lilies** or  
flowers for the  
chancel area on  
the 15th or Easter  
Sunday the 16th.

**Laurie P. will be**  
**taking photos** in  
your Easter Finery  
on Easter Sunday  
for our new church  
directory.