

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

# REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH



This Week: Pastor Tim Swanson will be preaching on Mark 15:21-47



## HAVE YOU EVER FELT Forsaken By God?

### What's Going On

**Sun. 03/29**

Sunday Worship @ 10am; All-Age Service; Congregational Meeting following service

**Thur. 04/02**

Prayer Gathering @ 7pm

**Fri. 04/03**

Good Friday service @ WCC @ 7pm

**Sun. 04/05**

Easter Celebration begin @ 8:45

**Tue. 04/07**

Food Distribution @ 12:30

**Wed. 04/08**

Youth Discipleship @ 7pm

**Sat. 04/11**

SRJC InterVarsity Prayer Walk @ 10am

### By Vaneetha Rendall Risner

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)*

We can hear the anguish in Christ's cry from the cross.

I have felt that kind of despair in my own life. Though God will never literally forsake me, I have felt forsaken, abandoned, betrayed by those I loved. I have questioned where God was in my pain. And I have wondered what good could ever come from my suffering.

Because of the cross, we who have felt that pain, who live with unanswered questions and sleepless nights, can unreservedly rejoice at Easter. Out of the worst evil imaginable, the sinless Son of God on the cross, God brought about the greatest good ever known.

### Feeling Forsaken

Easter is a stunning reminder of Genesis 50:20, that what man means for evil, God means for good.

*Continued on next page*

"Out of the worst evil imaginable, God brought about the greatest good ever known."

In my own life, through the lens of Scripture, I can see that God has brought the greatest good out of the hardest events. But I say that in retrospect. At the time, none of my suffering felt even vaguely positive.

Sobbing by my son's tiny casket was devastating. Receiving the divorce papers in the mail was beyond heartbreaking. Hearing the doctor say that my body was deteriorating, and then watching it happen, was agonizing.

None of those trials felt redemptive. None of them could be celebrated. None of them even made sense. I never could have imagined that God would bring something beautiful out of my pain. I felt that my pain was deforming me. That I would forever be marred by it.

I was sure my best years were behind me — before "this" happened. When I laughed easily and often. When I wasn't burdened with the memories of all that had gone before.

### **Pain Deepens Us**

And yet somehow, even in those horrifying trials, God was doing something. Something extraordinary. Something I could have not have planned or foreseen. He was doing something in me that could not have happened any other way. It was strange and beautiful — wonderful and unexpected — the handiwork of God.

Out of the most crushing pain and terrible despair, God was bringing glorious triumph.

Instead of deforming me, my pain strangely deepened me. It increased my capacity for God. And for joy. It made me see the world through different eyes. Eyes of faith and not eyes of hopelessness. It helped me recognize that what I was going through was just a snapshot in time. One day my life will be totally transformed.

### **Does Evil Win?**

While my circumstances will undoubtedly change one day, what changes most profoundly in my suffering is me. The very struggles that I thought would break me are what God used to purposefully shape me.

## **Pray:**

- Jasmine Basch: Recovering from heart procedure on 03/16
- Jonathan Bauer: Recovering from knee surgery.
- Brandi Durham: Injured knee and ankle; repeated fainting.
- Linda Hubley: For comfort from the Lord, his Word, and his people. For continuance of the perfect peace she currently experiences. That she would make the most of every day, especially during the "better" periods between treatments. That she would identify and make the most of opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.
- Kathy Hughes (wife of Dan); Diagnosed with stressed kidney, lung cancer. Dan is caring for her and working full time.
- Greg Jackson: God's guidance and direction, family reconciliation.
- Kevin Moore: Comfort over continued grieving over his daughter, Christine.
- Jenn Welch: Recovery from surgery; for strong functioning of remaining kidney.
- John and Debbie Cossey's daughter, Annie-recovering from major surgery.



We are having an important Congregational Meeting following today's worship service. We ask that all members and regular attenders be present.



“God was doing something in me through my pain that could not have happened any other way.”

That shaping did not happen instantaneously. It took time and trust. At first it seemed like nothing was happening — nothing but disillusionment and defeat. It honestly felt like Satan was wrecking my life.

Similarly, to the disciples on that terrifying Friday, it must have seemed like Satan was victorious. Their Savior was crucified. Their dreams were dead. Their hopes had unraveled. Maybe evil really had won.

And then everything was silent for two long days. It may have seemed like nothing was happening — nothing but disillusionment and defeat.

But in the wisdom of God, when life looked darkest, it gave way to the dawning of the purest, most brilliant light.

### **God Meant It for Good**

Easter Sunday reminds me that God's perspective is infinitely greater than mine. Much of what is really happening is unseen. While it may look otherwise in the moment, Satan will never be victorious and evil cannot win. God always has the last word.

What Satan means for evil, God means for good. Always.

So if you feel forsaken and have no idea where to turn or what to do, trust that God is using that very struggle. If life looks like a hopeless mess and every day is a fight to survive, trust that God will one day gloriously prevail. And when he has, when you are on the other side, trust that God will have done an incomparable work in your soul.

Then you will have learned how to rely, truly rely, on God who brings beauty from ashes. Your life and walk with him will be more beautiful than you ever imagined. And somehow, through your pain, you will be transformed. And when you are, when you see how God has changed you, you will never want to go back to the way you were before.

You will understand that nothing can thwart God's plans for you. What now appears to be evil will result in your eternal joy. And the staggering triumph of Easter will fall afresh on you.

Rendall Risner, Vaneetha. “Have You Felt Forsaken by God?” *Desiring God*, 4 Apr. 2017, [www.desiringgod.org/articles/have-you-felt-forsaken-by-god](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/have-you-felt-forsaken-by-god).

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026



## Good Friday Service

This reverent but powerful service will involve a community of several local churches and will include scripture, communion, and a multi-church worship team. Childcare provided for nursery-preschool.

7:00pm @ Windsor Christian Church



## Easter Sunday Celebration

We gather on April 20th to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Let's be praying for and inviting our friends, neighbors, classmates and co-workers!

8:45 AM – COURTYARD WORSHIP & THE WORD  
9:00 AM – EGG HUNT (CHILDREN UP TO 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)  
9:15 AM – BRUNCH  
10:00 AM – WORSHIP SERVICE



Sign-up to bring food for our Easter Sunday community brunch.



We're updating the pictures in our online directory. A photographer will be taking quick portraits of everyone on Easter Day.

# PRAY

for the  
Swansons

## Points for Prayer:

- Removal of any fungus on the valve, pacemaker, and in the blood as well as medication side-effects.
- Protection from infectious emboli and vegetations.
- Restoration of natural ventricular heart beat
- Clarity in decision-making and the fungal source.
- Thwarting of spiritual schemes/attacks in light of Revelation 12:10-11.
- Christ's renewing strength, peace, and joy.
- God will be glorified in this affliction and, as John 9:3, says "...that the works of God might be displayed in (me)."



## Points for Prayer

- The three unreached people groups I have targeted this year: the development of good relationships with open-hearted individuals.
- Parents of our preschool students: that they'd be moved by the love they see in our teachers and ask about the "Hope" that we carry.
- For my much-needed eye surgery: funding, the skill of the surgeons, and quick recovery.
- For new believers: boldness within their Muslim communities; protection from persecution.



## Points for Prayer:

- After 50 years of service, our preschool (Happy Time) is closing due to low enrollment/loss of funds. Pray that we know what God's will is for our next step, and for the sadness around closing.
- Pray that Pastor Rick and his wife Donna would grow in learning how to lead the church in discipleship
- Pray that we find an associate pastor who would be able to lead the church in its next phase

## 40 Days of Prayer

— through Easter

- Free book for every adult
- Fast together each Thursday, for those who are able

20  
26

I'm  
praying  
for  
you

## Church-wide Forty Days of Prayer

"When we hear that a friend is struggling, it can be easy to say, 'I'm praying for you', but harder to know what to actually pray. The scriptures provide a resource for that, giving us the words to ask God to do the very things he has told us he intends to do in and through the suffering in a believer's life."

In the forty days leading up to Easter, we're praying together as a church family, guided by Nancy Guthrie's book, *I'm Praying For You: Forty Days of Praying the Bible for Someone Who's Suffering*. Join us!

We are giving away a free copy of *I'm Praying For You* to every adult. Additional copies are available for \$5 (please place payment in an envelope marked, "Book," and place it in the offering box.)

Throughout this season of prayer, we are also asking that those who are able fast every Thursday. For more guidance on this, speak to Pastor Tim or Kelly Hubley.

**Today is Day 33.**

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS



April 26, 2026



Interested to find out more about Redemption Hill Church and what it would mean to become a member?

In this class, you'll:

- Get to know our Elders, and others who are considering membership
- Learn about our Vision, Mission, Beliefs, and Values
- Find out what church membership is all about and why it matters
- Consider how you might become more involved in what Christ is doing in and through Redemption Hill

Attending this class does not obligate you to become a member! However, attendance is a pre-requisite for those who would like to pursue church membership.

Childcare available.

Lunch will be provided.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026



Serve with the  
**Food Distribution**




1st/3rd Tuesday  
12:30pm - 2:30pm

## Youth Discipleship: Change of Dates

In a change to the usual schedule, we'll be meeting on the following dates:

- 04/08 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
- 04/22 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)
- 04/29 (5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)



**PRAYER GATHERING**

THIS THURSDAY  
7-8pm



Jr. High and High School!

Broomball • In-N-Out • Laser Tag  
Late-night service • games • snacks  
and more! • \$25 per person

Message and concert from  
special guest: CJ Emulous!

**7pm April 17th - 7am April 18th**

### Save The Date:

**04/19/26**  
Prayer Gathering after service

**04/11/26**  
InterVarsity Prayer Walk at SSU @ 10am

**04/26/26**  
Membership Class, 12pm-2:30pm

**04/17/26-04/18/26**  
Youth Discipleship All-Nighter

**05/03/26**  
Bible Adventure Week Volunteer Luncheon

**06/15/26-06/19/26**  
Bible Adventure Week

**06/07/26**  
Graduation Sunday; Outdoor Service & BBQ

**10/16/26-10/18/26**  
Man Camp

PRAYER WALK WITH



SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



APRIL 11 @ 10AM

# NEW TO REDEMPTION?

## Hi there!

Whatever your background or situation, we're glad you've decided to join us this morning. You might find it helpful to know that:

- There are bathrooms available in the lobby and in the courtyard.
- Nursery services are available for infants. We also dismiss children for age-appropriate learning (toddlers through 5th Grade) during the main teaching time (except on the 5th Sunday of the month).
- A nursing room and changing facilities are available in the Sanctuary building.

Refreshments are available after the service - please stick around and say hi!

We look forward to getting to know you!

## FIND COMMUNITY

Hungry for deeper, authentic relationships? We've got Men's, Women's, and Youth Discipleship Groups to help us grow together in grace. We meet weekly to discuss Scripture and pray. *Contact the Church Office for location and availability.*

### Men's Groups

- Mon. Evenings - Santa Rosa
- Tues. Evenings - Rohnert Park
- Weds. Evenings - Santa Rosa

### Women's Groups

- Weds. Mornings - Santa Rosa
- Weds. Evenings - Rohnert Park
- Thurs. Evenings - Santa Rosa

### Youth (6th-12th Grade):

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month — RHC Campus.
- Contact Kellen for more info: [kellen@RedemptionHillsSR.org](mailto:kellen@RedemptionHillsSR.org)



Online Giving

## Get In Touch

Mailing address: P.O. Box 571,  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
[office@RedemptionHillsSR.org](mailto:office@RedemptionHillsSR.org)  
 Tel. 707-576-0130  
 Office hours: Tues 9 am - 5 pm

## Ministry Team

### Elders:

- Tim Swanson - Pastor/Elder
- Kelly Hubley - Elder

### Staff:

- Wendy Cunningham - Worship Ministry Director
- Kellen Eddy - Youth Ministry Director
- John Hansen - Children's Ministry Director
- Sarah Mee - Church Administrative Assistant / Tech Team Administrator
- Alisa Swanson - Hospitality & Facilities Administrator

## First Aid

An AED and a Life-Vac anti-choking device are located in the Foyer. A box of other first aid supplies is in the Fireside Room, above the refrigerator.

## LET'S CONNECT!

We'd love to get to know you better and welcome you into our family. If you're ready to get connected, please fill out a few details and leave this in the offering box on the back wall of the Sanctuary. Or, better still, scan this code and fill it out online. Someone will be in touch soon.

First name: .....

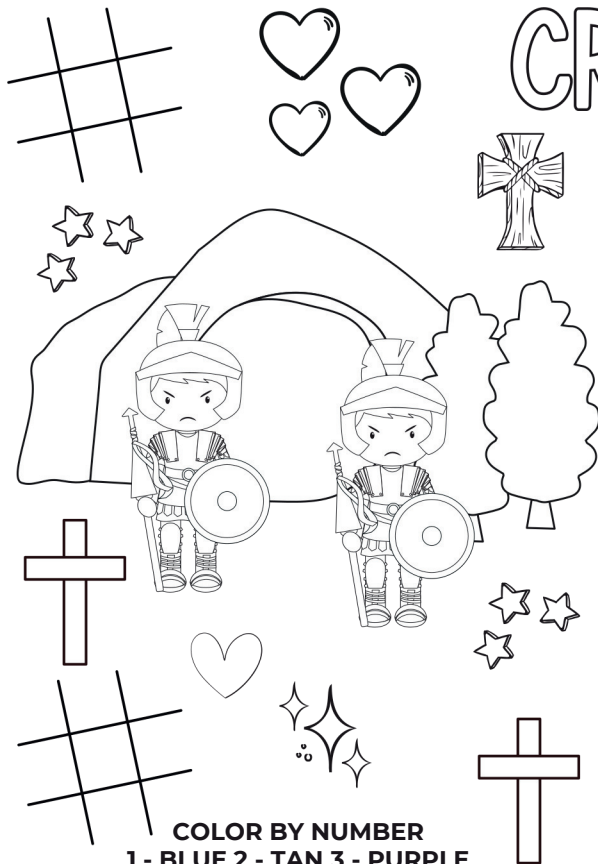
Last name: .....

Email: .....

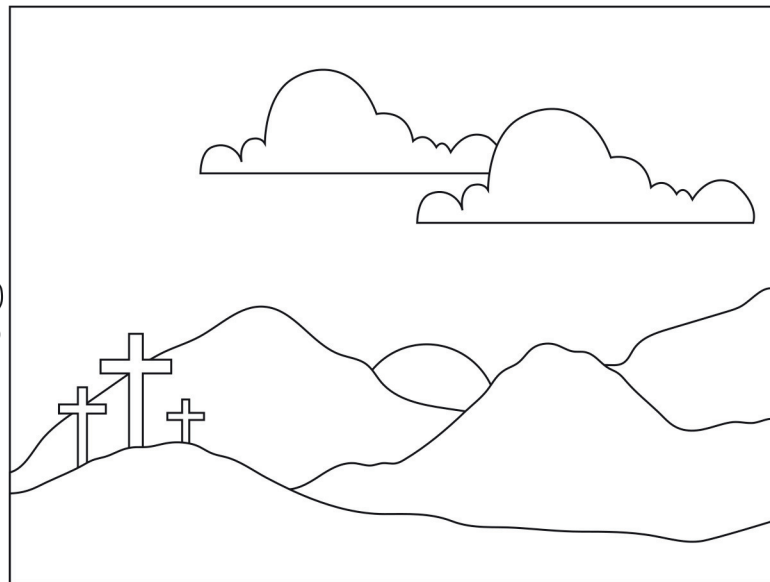
Phone: .....



# CRUCIFIXION & BURIAL



**COLOR BY NUMBER**  
 1 - BLUE 2 - TAN 3 - PURPLE  
 4 - BROWN 5 - RED 6 - GRAY



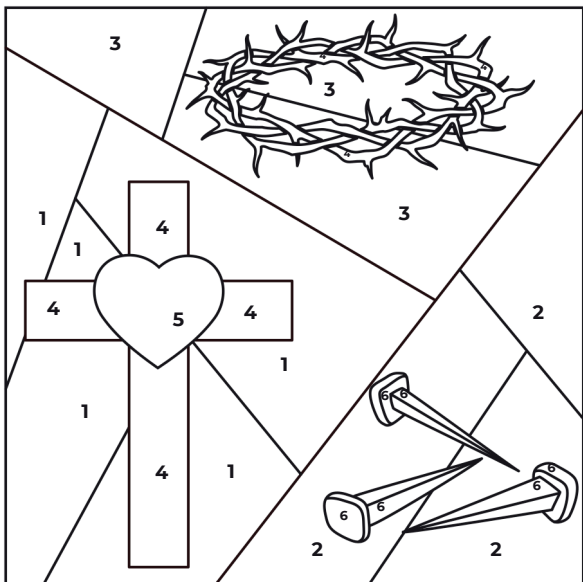
**Matt 27:27-66; Mark 15:15-47;  
 Luke 23:26-56; John 19:17-42**

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

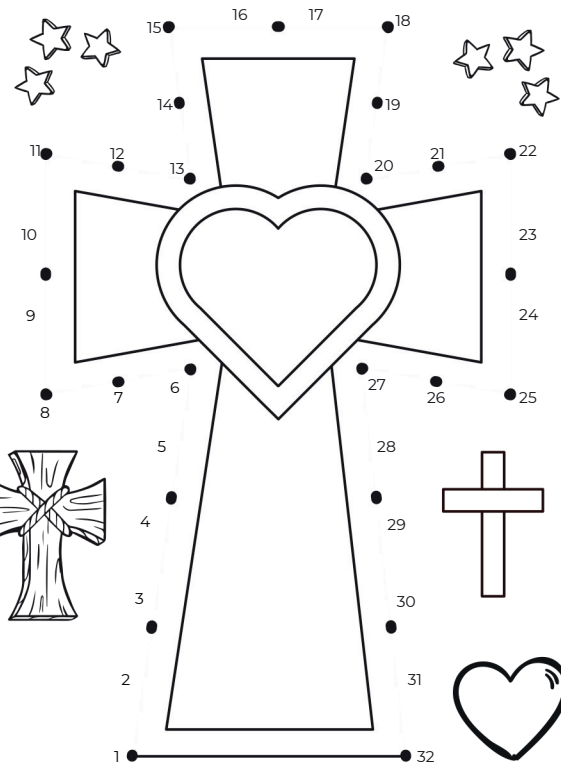
CRUCIFIED INSULTS DARKNESS  
 FORSAKEN TOMB STONE  
 GUARD CROWN THORNS



**How many crosses  
 can you find?**



And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). *Mark 15:33-34*



**A LOVING ENCOUNTER ON THE CROSS**  
Sermon Notes: Palm Sunday Morning, March 29, 2026  
Redemption Hill Church, Santa Rosa, CA

**PASSAGE:** Mark 15:21-47

Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ through His work on the cross, invoking a \_\_\_\_\_ response.

**On the Cross, Christ's Love Encountered in His Suffering:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ by Others (vs. 22-32)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ by God (vs. 33-37)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ for Us (vs. 38)

**Encountering Christ's Love Will Move Us to Courageously:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and Proclaim Him as the Son of God (vs. 39)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Faithful When Understanding is Lacking and Danger is Near (vs. 40)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Him in Fulfilling His Word (vs. 43-47)