



JKPC News

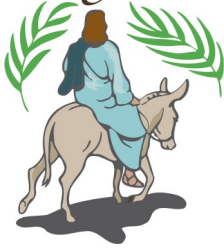
Monthly update of events

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Hosanna
in the
Highest!*



April 5 ~ Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

April 10 ~ Good Friday Service at 12 p.m.



GOOD FRIDAY



April 12 ~ Easter Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.



APRIL

Sermons

Coming To A Pulpit Near You!

Here are Pastor Randy's sermon subjects for the month of April. You may want to read the scripture passages in advance.

April 5, Palm Sunday - "The Eye of the Storm," Matthew 21:1-5

April 12, Easter Sunday - "Resurrection, Now!" Matthew 28:1-10

April 19 "Fake News" Matthew 28:11-20

April 26 "Be the Good" Matthew 7:15-29



The Three "R's" of our Faith

This last week I have been thinking a lot about what makes our faith different from others. What are the essential beliefs that set us apart from other religions or faith practices? There are three R's in which we believe as Christians. I have chosen words that are found in scripture, but they are most often concepts that need explanation. Being a pastor I, of course, chose theological terms, but they are based on our understanding of who God is, what God has done, and who we are as a result.

The first "R" is Revelation. To reveal something means to unveil it or to uncover it. It is not so much ours to discover as it is something someone else makes known or makes more clear. The primary revelation on which we depend is scripture, or the Bible, which we believe is God's revelation to us.

We depend on the Bible to help us understand who God is and God's role in our life. It is important to understand, however, that every Bible we read is an interpretation. Even if we were reading it in the original language of Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, what we read is an interpretation. Few of us understand the original language the Bible was written in. Even if we could, we don't have the original manuscripts. Despite that, it is important to learn about the context in which those words were written. So, first, we have to depend on our faith-ancestors who first wrote the inspired words and the others who later copied these words. Sometimes in that copying, changes were made to make the revelation more clear.

This, of course, means we need to depend on the writers' veracity and their willingness to follow the Spirit in guiding them in their transmission of this revelation from God. There are thousands of portions of the manuscripts in existence and there are hundreds of well schooled translators who have brought to us the Bible as we read it today. Among all those portions there are thousands of variants. I would sincerely doubt that any copier or translator would knowingly make a change that would undermine the intent God had for this revelation. So we rely on God's Spirit to keep the true message intact.

Our faith tells us that through the thousands of years of writing, at least 1500 from the earliest transmitters in the Old Testament to the writers in the New Testament, God kept watch over what was being written. The personalities of the writers, the context of their culture, and the words they used all influence what was written down. These inspired words have come to us to reveal God's message for each and every one of us.

Not only do I believe the words written were inspired but also that what God considered was necessary to be written or communicated to us remained intact throughout those thousands of years of transmission. I believe God's Spirit kept the integrity of the message true and that same Spirit will help us understand what we need to know to live a faithful life as a follower of Jesus.

Revelation is key to our faith.

Redemption is the second “R” in which we need to believe. The first time redemption is mentioned was when Moses was sent back to Egypt to “redeem” his people from slavery.

If you read about the laws for redemption found in Leviticus, you will be reminded of Isaac’s being redeemed on Mount Moriah when he was to be Abraham’s sacrifice to God, found in Genesis 22. God later talks in Exodus about the need to redeem the first born of the Israelites with the sacrifice of a lamb. But it is in Leviticus where we find the greatest detail regarding the laws of redemption for a person’s land, a person’s house, and even one’s family.

Often the need for redemption arose because of some unfortunate situation that caused a person to acquire resources for survival that could not be obtained without selling their land, house, or family members. Every fifty years, however, during Jubilee, those things could be redeemed because of God’s grace; that is another interesting concept, but not one I wish to discuss here.

The classic example in the Bible of redemption is the story of Ruth. This book is only four chapters long, but explores the purpose of and need for a kinsman-redeemer. This term in Ruth plants the seed in our minds of a person who takes on the debts of another and, thereby, becomes their redeemer.

Redemption is important, for it means our debts are paid or forgiven, like in the Lord’s Prayer. We believe that when Jesus died on the cross he was the sacrifice, the one who paid for our debts or sins, the redeemer – he was our kinsman-redeemer. Once we have been redeemed then we are restored to a relationship with God.

The third “R” I want to address is Resurrection. In many religions there are beliefs that sacrifices need to be made to the god the believers want to appease or with whom they want to gain favor. Often those religions rely on their priests to make clear how often or why each sacrifice needs to be made. But also there are times when those sacrifices don’t result in the desired effect. The question arises, was the sacrifice wrong or does that god really have the power to do what we ask?

One of the most significant differences from other religions is that Christianity has a belief in resurrection, the evidence of God’s power over death. We believe that Jesus was not just the Son of God because of all the miracles he performed and all the wisdom he proclaimed, but because he paid for the price for our sins. Not only did Jesus pay for our sins, but what happened to Jesus afterwards (resurrection) was a result of the power God used to bring him back from the dead.

The concept of resurrection was not part of their Jewish thinking until after 200 B.C., and even then it wasn’t a core belief until Christianity had taken hold in the first few centuries of the common era, A.D.

Our belief in the resurrection of Jesus is just the beginning of resurrection possibilities for

all Christians. Not only do we believe Jesus was resurrected, but we believe we too will be resurrected some day. In fact, the essential belief of resurrection continues with our belief that some day Jesus will return and bring justice and mercy to all people and the world itself.

Resurrection is so important that Paul even develops the concept that once we believe in Christ our old self, the person we were before we believed, changes to the new self, who we are after we believe (2 Corinthians 5:17). In fact, we are beginning to experience a sort of resurrection already working in us, sometimes referred to as sanctification. The old creation gives way to the new (resurrected) creation. I will explore more of this on Easter morning during our celebration service.

So let us celebrate the revelation we have been given, the scriptures. Let us choose redemption through Christ's sacrifice for us. Let us look forward to the full resurrection, not only now as we slowly become part of the new creation, but also when we will become God's own completed creation living fully our life everlasting.

Blessings, Pastor Randy

P.S. God's creation in full bloom by our church entry way.



Practicing God's Presence along the Alamo Creek Canal by Joan McGrady-Beach

Today I am engaged in a Lenten retreat, rendered virtual due to the Coronavirus "shelter in place" order. The theme is "Do Not Be Anxious About Anything. Seriously??" The scripture focus is Philippians 4:4-7 in which Paul admonishes us to rejoice in the Lord always and not be anxious about anything while presenting our concerns to God with thanksgiving. Why? Because "the Lord is near."

After listening to the first video segment, we were asked to spend some time alone practicing presence and looking for evidence that the Lord is near. I set out on a walk along the canal with the intent of being mindful, staying present and looking for signs of God's presence. All the usual wild creatures were out in abundance, including the largest turtle I've seen yet on the canal!



One observation and one encounter really spoke to my heart. The first was seeing three pairs of different birds lazily floating, paddling, or wading in the shallow waters near the underpass to Highway 680: a pair of Canada geese, a pair of mallards, and a pair of what I think might be black-necked stilts. This reminded me of our trinitarian God - one God in three persons - a community, if you will. The fact that there were three pairs symbolized to me how we, created

in God's image, are also created for community. These three pairs of birds, each distinct and beautiful, seemed to be enjoying each other's company as they moved about the canal together as one "body", never far apart. What an example and celebration of diversity in the bird family, as is true in the human family. We need each other and are enriched by our differences.

The second encounter, albeit from a distance, was with a beautiful kingfisher. We have only ever seen him early in the morning on a wire along the canal near Amador Valley Boulevard. Today, in late morning, he swooped by me where the trail goes underneath highway 680 - a flash of navy, black and white. He alighted atop one of the pylons that supports the freeway. I turned around and walked in that direction in hopes of getting a photo of him to show Randy. We stood and observed one another for a few minutes and then he took off under the freeway in the other direction.



I turned and again followed him to where he perched on a pipe suspended under the freeway. Thus began a back and forth "dance" between us. He would reverse course and fly back the way he had come, find a perch on fence, tree or pipe and wait for me. He would sit there and trill. Since there was no-one around to laugh at me, I trilled back at him. After a bit I would grow tired of standing still and would turn around and head back up the trail. Then he would pursue me – flying by me, taking a new perch a little ahead of me, and proceeding to trill until I caught up with him again. We each reversed course, either pursuing or being pursued, half a dozen times before I headed for home with a lighter heart. As I walked, I pondered my relationship with God. I seek God, who is ever ready

to be found, but in the times when I turn and wander in the other direction, God turns and pursues me.

I am so grateful that we were created for relationship, for belonging, and that we follow a God who is ever ready to pursue us as well as be found by us.



LITWITS



are up to it! Contact Sue Fox with any questions, suehfox@gmail.com

Hey, all Litwits! We will meet on April 13th for an e-mail conversation. Sue Fox will send out a few questions on our book, *Virgil Wander*, by Leif Enger, and at 7:00 pm on the 13th, we will gather electronically. Grab a refreshing drink of your choice and a tasty sweet and send your answers to the group e-mail that will be set up for you. You may answer any or all of the questions but do feel free to comment on others' responses as well as offering your own. It will be a challenge, maybe a little cumbersome and something quite new for us all, but we

april Calendar

April 5	Palm Sunday Worship
April 10	Good Friday Worship
April 12	Easter Sunday Worship
April 13	LITWITS
April 19	Worship Service & Communion
April 21	Deacons Meeting Session Meeting



Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request or know someone who is in need, please call the office or Stan Husted, (925)997-4161, or email us at jkpccares@gmail.com

www.jkpcdublin.org

Preschools on Site -
Joy Preschool & Day Care - 829-3233,
www.joypreschooldublin.com
John Knox Co-op Preschool - 828-2887,
www.jkcp.org





Stan	Husted	April	1
Vincent	Townsend	April	1
Danielle	Han	April	2
Cirila	Sagasag	April	2
Paige	Adler	April	8
Jack	Harper	April	8
Jamison	Cloyd	April	10
Marlene	Muir	April	10
Sue	Wilburn	April	10
Max	Merrell	April	11
Jessica	Nelson	April	13
Hank	Irwin	April	18
Leslie	James	April	19
John	Neckar	April	23
Mark	Polcyn	April	24
Mia	Nelson	April	28
Ryan	Nelson	April	28
Ron	Kraft	April	29
Kirk	Richards	April	29
Sharon	Smith	April	30

Church Staff

Randy McGrady-Beach, Pastor
Nancy Polcyn, Family Ministries Director
Dean Christman, Music Director
Bruce Byrne, Youth Director
Bailey Kraft, Assistant Youth Director
Mary Chervet, Administrative Assistant
Rene Phillips, Administrative Assistant
Elise O'Connell, Office Assistant, Newsletter
Teresa Karlson, Benevolence Treasurer
Eric Loofbourrow, Organist
Steve Kritzer, Music Ministry
Nanette Wehe, Music Ministry

Volunteer Staff

Marion Rogers, Chief Sound Technician
Jerry Miller, Chief Video Technician
Sue King-Irwin & Peter McIntyre,
 Head Ushers
Sue Wilburn & Sandi Coll, Music
Lisa Locus & Rene Phillips,
 Wedding Coordinators
Lyall Barrett, Veterans Coordinator

Preschools

Joy Preschool & Day Care
 Lisa Locus, Director
John Knox Co-op Preschool
 Leslie James, Director



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9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning

Blended Worship Service

Sunday School for Preschool through High School & Nursery Care