



## THE CALVARY CALLING

Dear Calvary folks,

Here we are in March and it's all Lent and Holy Week and Easter Sunday. I'm not sure how the tradition started, but Easter is always, get this, appointed to occur in the Western Christian church on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. So, this year, the equinox is on March 19 (when the day and night are equally long) and the first full moon after the 19th is on Sunday, March 24th and Monday, March 25th. THEREFORE, Easter is on the next Sunday, which is March 31st.

This way of figuring Easter must have had something to do with a pre-existing agricultural festival, or perhaps it is placed where it is because of the Jewish festival of Passover. Though this year, Passover doesn't start until the evening of April 22nd. If any of you are interested in the real scoop, you can consult your devices and let me know what you find.

And it should be mentioned, not to dash anybody's preconception, that Christmas was determined to be on December 25th, well, because it seems right. The Light of the World is born, and it makes sense that the natural light of the world would lengthen after Christ's birth.

So, we go from Jesus' birth to his death and resurrection within the course of three to four months. And we course through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter fairly quickly.

And in the schedule of gospel lessons, we travel through expecting the Messiah, celebrating Christ's birth, being amazed at his coming out into the world as an adult, walking with him on the way to the cross, accompanying Christ through his passion, and then, new life -- It seems very compact!

And then, of course, we return to Jesus' longish ministry including the coming of the Spirit to the disciples (after Jesus' ascension) at Pentecost.

This year more than others, I'm noticing the herky-jerky character of the flow. And I wonder, what would it be like to start with Christmas and go straight through Jesus' earthly ministry clear to Holy Week, Easter, and then with Pentecost? Other than being kind of fun, it would put us rather a bit out of sync with the rest of the Christian world.

There is such a thing as the Narrative Lectionary that does pretty much that, though I think it still includes the traditional dates for Christmas and Easter. I'll have to look into it.

Meanwhile, it doesn't do us any harm to continue to wind our way through the church year as it is. I like the procession of liturgical seasons, and I like the changing of the colors and the symbols in the sanctuary, and the cycle of hymn themes, and the coincidence of our local seasons with them. The cold waiting and midnight birth, the widening of the sun's trek, the spring-ish resurrection, the "growing" season of Pentecost, which includes harvest and gathering in.

Which is all to say that we travel along liturgical pathways in our congregation as we all go along our individual and family pathways in our lives.

if you've made it this far reading this pastoral letter, you can tell that I'm waxing contemplative, and seeking to deepen my appreciation for Christian community and traditions and corporate movement of the Spirit. And that's it.

In love and peace, and appreciation of you all,  
Pastor Brian

# More from Pastor Brian

In a few weeks, the Sunday night Zoom discussion of *The Chosen* will be able to access the eight episodes of Season 4. We are led to believe by spurts of communication that this season will include the raising of Lazarus, increasing conflicts with the religious authorities, and the triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms. And those of you who have been to the theaters and seen all eight episodes can confirm or correct me.

Whatever the exact content, I am sure that the producers, directors, writers, actors and others associated with this magnificent series will have lots of highs and lows, and plenty of hanky moments in store for us. I did hear that one person's experience after the first three episodes was that the whole audience in the theater sat absolutely quiet through the closing credits and left to home in the same spirit. Anyway, know that if you would like to join the group for Season 4, please let me know.

In addition, if you would like to join a group that might start again with Season 1 after a few months, let me know that too. It seems that whenever I watch an episode again, it affects me as much, if not more, than the previous viewings.

## **Bible Study on the Parables of Grace**

Pastor Mary will be continuing to lead this Bible Study on Tuesday afternoons on Zoom and says that she always welcomes new participants. It is not necessary for you to have not attended to date, since each class discusses and explores a new parable. Speak with Pastor Mary if you feel called to be a part of this group.

## **Wednesday morning Bible Study**

This ongoing class has been working its way through a video series introducing the whole Bible through literary themes. And it has been very enlightening. After Easter, we will be developing a new direction, which will be decided in the next few weeks. Keep an eye/ear out for that news! And come join Pastor David Ryal and me as we lead this group.

## **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward**

On Tuesday mornings on Zoom, this group discusses the past Sunday's sermon and then uncovers the surprises of the following week's lessons, with the purpose of strengthening the preaching ministry of Calvary. You are welcome to join this group and add your own perspective and insights.

## **Confirmation**

Our three confirmands are currently reading through the New Testament. After Easter, we will switch to four sessions about Christian Church History. The following school year, we will be discussing Luther's Small Catechism, other religions and what it means to affirm one's faith in Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday of 2025.

Mid-week Lent gatherings continue in March on Wednesdays until March 20. The soup supper starts at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall, with an abbreviated worship service starting at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex for those wishing to provide soup, bread or dessert. The theme for worship will be stories of dust in the Bible.



# Scriptures for March

March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	<b>Processional Gospel</b> Mark 11:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1--15:47	Acts 10:34-43 Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Mark 16:1-8



- Suzanne Gorter and Glenna Baker will be joining the congregation at worship on February 25th.
- Our recent accompanists, Ann Lucas and Jean Wilt, will be continuing to play on an occasional basis.
- Will host the GriefShare program at Calvary if there is enough interest.
- The Worship Arts group is at work developing sanctuary decorations for Lent and Easter.
- Receipts exceeded expenses in January by \$599.89.
- Voted to approve the expense of a new laptop to augment current equipment for the streaming of worship, not to exceed \$500 and to be covered by the proceeds from the "Sanctuary Sale" in March
- Voted to send a thank you note to Harvey's Honey Huts for their provision and upkeep of the Port-a-Potty.

## Treasurer's Report

As of January 31, 2024 - Receipts - \$8,578.00. Expenses - \$7,978.11. Income was at 62.11% of the 2024 Budget for the one month ended 01/31/2024. Expenses were at 69.32% of the 2024 Budget for the same period.

**Outreach Committee** – Even though the Outreach Committee only meets quarterly, outreach continues with a successful blanket drive for Iglesia in the month of February. The Iglesia food drive is in full swing and the boat is getting full! Food will be collected until Easter Sunday.





## POTLUCK

Join us for our annual Palm Sunday Potluck after the service on Sunday, March 24 at 11:00. **All are welcome!**

### Remember in Prayer

- Carolyn Wyatt – friend of Nancy Padilla Cancer, chemo/radiation for a year
- Aryia, - a new baby who is in the NICU, on a breathing machine and struggling.
- Kathie Sperow – thanksgiving for good health
- Jean Senter – recovering from knee problems
- Sean Cannoles, Nikki Rocha’s cousin – heart problems
- Dick Williams – general health issues
- Katie Edson and family who are grieving the loss of Mercedes
- Elaine Grawe – adjusting to new living situation
- Nancy Padilla – going through multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Christian, Heidi Carney’s son – for peace and comfort
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello’s sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Byron Nelson, friend of Jacoby's – dealing with cancer
- Mike Johnson – dealing with lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – frontotemporal lobe dementia, and starting a medication trial
- Heidi Carney – ongoing health issues
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – Eye surgery the end of the month
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – dealing with health issues
- James Hecker- undergoing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for serious infection
- Iglesia San Juan Bautista, Pastor Esteban and Angie – support of their ministry
- Those who are contracting COVID
- An end to the war in Ukraine
- The peoples of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence

## March Happy Birthday!

Carly Muff	3/2
*Robin Karas	3/4
Georgina Tway	3/4
Jennifer Chrismen	3/13
Jacob Rocha	3/15
Rachel Jacoby	3/17

## Anniversaries

Gary & Eileen Orback	March 11, 1968
Mike & Janet Lorenzo	March 26, 1988

*Happy Anniversary!*



Don't forget the Annual City-Wide Yard Sale on March 15, 4:00 – 7:00, and Saturday, March 16, 8:00 – 2:00. It's not too late to bring donations. Sign-up to help! **Many hands make light work!**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>March 2024</b>					1 *Sandy McMillan	2
<b>*Please remember in your prayers</b>						
<b>3</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Cindy  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 6:30 – 7:30 PM	<b>4</b> *David & Janelle Muff  Coffee Club 9:00 Inn at Morro Bay  Confirmation 6:00	<b>5</b> *Ed & Saniya Ogren  Sermon Feedback 10:00  Pastor Mary's Bible Study 1:10	<b>6</b> *Gary & Eileen Orback  Bible Study 10:00  Soup Supper 5:30	<b>7</b> *Mark Orback	<b>8</b> *Brenda Ouwerkerk	<b>9</b> Worship & Music Committee 9:30
<b>10</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Brenda  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 6:30 – 7:30 PM	<b>11</b> *Nancy Padilla  Confirmation 6:00	<b>12</b> *Joe & Angelina Rice  Sermon Feedback 10:00  Pastor Mary's Bible Study 1:10	<b>13</b> *Kevin & Nikki Rocha  Bible Study 10:00  Soup Supper 5:30	<b>14</b> *Randy & Carol Schuldt	<b>15</b> *Ronnie Smith  Coffee Club 9:00 TBA  Yard Sale 4-7:00	<b>16</b> Yard Sale 8-2:00
<b>17</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Joyce  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 6:30 – 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> *Daryl Sorensen	<b>19</b> *Dan & Kathie Sperow  Sermon Feedback 10:00  Pastor Mary's Bible Study 1:10  Finance Committee 7:00 zoom	<b>20</b> * Brian & Mary Stein- Webber  Bible Study 10:00  Soup Supper 5:30	<b>21</b> *George Tway  Council Meeting 5:30	<b>22</b> *Georgie Tway	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Katie  <b>Potluck! 11:00</b>  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 6:30 – 7:30 PM	<b>25</b> *Toni Tway  Confirmation 6:00	<b>26</b> *Diane Williams  Sermon Feedback 10:00  Pastor Mary's Bible Study 1:10	<b>27</b> *Dick Williams  Bible Study 10:00  Los Osos Community Dinner	<b>28</b> *Glenna Baker  <b>Maundy Thursda y Service 6:00</b>	<b>29</b> *Joe & Debby Hoefflich  <b>Good Friday Service 6:00</b>	<b>30</b> Flower Cross and Fellowship Hall Decorating Time TBD
<b>31 EASTER</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Nikki						