

Steeple Talk

Trinity Presbyterian Church ♦ Santa Cruz




The Pastor's Pen

Greetings Folks,

I have heard good things from so many of you about the worship resources we used for Lent, titled *Again and Again*, from the ministry group, A Sanctified Art. I am so glad you all fell in love with their work as much as I have, and I am grateful their words, their liturgy, their devotions, their art – all of it – have deepened your spiritual life this Lenten season. I'll leave you with one last piece of their work to close the Lenten season: an Easter poem written by Rev. Sarah Are, called "Again and Again, The Sun Rises: Light.

In Italian, the phrase, "to give birth" literally means, "to bring into the light." A mother will labor for hours and days, breaking herself for you, whispering between fractured breaths, "This is my body, broken for you."

A mother will do this as long as it takes so that you, her beloved, have a chance at life. So that you, her beloved, can feel the warmth of the light. And after all that pain, the sun will rise. The doctor will put a baby on her chest. The mother will hold her child as if letting go is indeed physically impossible.

She will breathe easy, and then she will whisper softly, "All this time, all these deep breaths... It was love, again and again and again."

It is childbirth, but it is also resurrection. A body broken. Breath fractured. A long night. A sunrise. Breath returned. New life, and a love that won't let go.

Friends, maybe Easter is just God whispering, "All this time, all these deep breaths... It's been love, again and again and again."

I think we've been standing in the light all this time.

Now that I think of it, isn't it warm?

Blessings,

Pastor Katheryn

Holy Week & Easter

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service

We remember the last supper and the events of Good Friday and Maundy Thursday with a pre-recorded service found on our website.

April 2 - Good Friday

Stations of the Cross in Downtown Santa Cruz

Join Peace United Church at 10:00am when we will walk in silence (and masked) to 12 stations (of the cross) in and around downtown Santa Cruz. At each station we will pause in prayer. The walk will be on level ground and is approximately a mile and a half. We are exploring ways to include people who will be unable to physically join us.

April 4 - Easter Sunday

In-person Outdoor Services at 10:30 and Noon

Join us for a wonderful Easter experience on the lawn in front of the fellowship hall. Reservations are required as we will be social-distancing. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0548aea62baaff2-easter>



Report of Session Meeting of March 9, 2021

Elders Present: Debbie Bates, Ellen Bauerle, George Bunch, Chuck Cobery, Emily Duffus, Richard Robinson, Ed Sams, Charlie May, Clerk of Session, and Katheryn McGinnis, Moderator.

A quorum was present and the Moderator opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. with prayer.

Time of Reflection: Katheryn McGinnis led Session in a discussion of Hebrews 9:23-28 and the question of how this text speaks to a comparison or relationship between our understanding of heaven and sanctuary.

Clerk's Report: The minutes from the Session meeting of February 9, 2021 were approved. **M/S/P** Session elected Charlie May to continue as Clerk of Session for Trinity through the end of January, 2022. **M/S/P**

Pastor's Report: Katheryn informed Session that she had been contacted by Beverly Brook, pastor of Peace Church, who invited Trinity to participate in a "Stations of the Cross" social justice themed service to be held at various locations in downtown Santa Cruz on Good Friday morning. Session agreed this would be a good event in which to participate.

Katheryn indicated she will be taking vacation time April 19-25, and study leave May 3-9. Katheryn will schedule the guest ministers for those Sundays.

Personnel: Cal OSHA has provided information regarding workplace prevention measures for the Covid pandemic, of which Trinity is and has been in compliance. The rules will posted in the office.

Administration: Session reviewed and accepted the "Budget vs. Actual" financial report for January-February 2021 **M/S/P**. Ellen Bauerle has obtained three quotes to replace the sanctuary carpeting and plans to obtain one more. It was agreed to request donations toward the purchase of the new carpeting and use other existing funds, as necessary, to complete the purchase. Ellen will report back after obtaining the fourth quote. Chuck Cobery reported on the security issues around the church campus. He recommended the shades be closed in the Fellowship Hall when not in use.

Mission: Chuck reported that the Mission Committee has decided not to commit to funding the Caring for Kids fundraising effort as we have in past years, due to Trinity's current budget constraints. Chuck also reported on a fundraising effort for an El Salvador man involved in a motorcycle accident.

Outreach: The Outreach Committee meets tomorrow, March 10th with an agenda to include discussion of Fourth Tuesday program ideas. The committee has proposed possible annual retreat dates of October 8-10 or October 22-24 and plans to poll the congregation regarding the most favorable time. The committee has scheduled a church hike in the Land of Medicine Buddha, on the morning of Friday, March 19th, at 9:00 AM.

Worship and Christian Education: Ellen Bauerle reported that the committee has been working on planning of the Palm Sunday service to be held by Zoom; the Maundy Thursday service to be recorded; the Good Friday "Stations of the Cross" service downtown Santa Cruz; and contemplating holding two Easter Sunday outdoor services at 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM. If outdoor services are held on Easter Sunday, Covid protocols will be in place and attendance limited to around 45 people per service. This will require members wishing to attend making a reservation for the preferred service.

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After Easter Sunday, the committee will survey the congregation to determine how services will be held moving forward. Many of the congregation have received their Covid vaccine shots, so the situation is improving daily.

Old Business: Katheryn informed Session that her installation service will be held on March 21st during the regular Sunday worship time of 10:30 AM. The service will have been recorded previously. Session indicated its pleasure in hearing this great news. Kathy Willott and Ryan Althaus are local members of the installation commission. Martha Wills, who provided the PNC guidance through the pastor search process is another member of the commission familiar to Trinity.

Session was provided an update by Katheryn and Charlie May on Safe Spaces client Tanya and her medical condition, as well as plans for her RV and the soon to be vacated parking lot space.

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30p.m. by Zoom.

April Birthdays

- 7 Ann Carle
- 14 Diana Dean
- 16 Leon Wong
- 19 Laura Brothers
- 21 Sally Sams
- 24 Loren Edwards
- 30 Barbara Christie



April Anniversaries

- 8 Glenn Joy & Kathy Willott
- 14 Gary & Jennie Edwards
- 19 Kent & Marie Imai
- 29 Nicki and Donald Kerns

If you don't see your special date listed, please call the church office, at 831-423-8995 and let us know!

Newsletter Articles Due

- April 20 - Newsletter available May 2
- May 18 - Newsletter available May 30
- June 15 - July/August available June 27



One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Please join us.

As Jesus says in Matthew 25, the Church belongs with those in need – whether it is offering relief from natural disasters or the ravages of war; access to food, water and healthcare; or coping with the pandemic. Through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are there because we are the Church, together.

Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021,
by donating to this worthy cause.

Checks should be mailed to Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

You may also donate online at:

<https://www.trinitypressc.org/donate-to-trinity>

The Librarian's Corner

One of my favorite books is “The Name of the Rose”. The library, described by Umberto Eco, had everything you could want in a library. It had a unique history, challenging geography and multiple mysteries.

Our Church library has all of this. As for its unique history, I know that it used to be where the Pastor's office is now. I am hoping that folks will fill me in on the history and I will write about that in future articles.

As for challenging geography, I am attempting to make it less challenging and more accessible. Our library is located off the fellowship hall on the same side as the kitchen. There are two doors, one from the courtyard and one from the fellowship hall. Right now it is open by appointment only. Call, text 707-372-2958 or email me, lvilardo@earthlink.net. Also if there is a book you are looking for and you are sheltering in your house, I will deliver it to you.

As for interior geography, the shelves are all labeled and I continue to move books to the appropriate shelf. There are three shelves below the windows that face the courtyard. On the top shelf there I have been placing all the NY times and International bestsellers so you can find them quickly and easily. Right next to them I will be placing copies of all our “Book Club” books. On top of those shelves using book ends I plan to place our new acquisitions. Anyone can come in and find some truly curated and interesting reading in one small area with a quick glance.

Next month I will write about three wonderful mysteries I have unearthed concerning our library, one French, one Spanish and one English. To solve these arcane mysteries I will need your help! In this Easter season I feel privileged to be a part of the rebirth and resurrection of our church library.

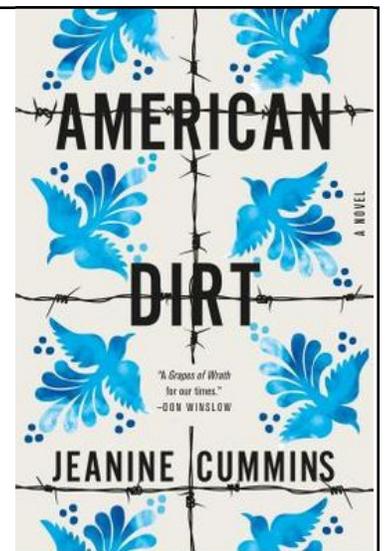
Warmly, Larry Vilardo



Book Club

You are always welcome to join the book club as they talk about books that they have read. Book Club meets (via zoom these days) on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

The book for April will be “American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins.



CONSIDERING YOUR LEGACY

Since its founding over 80 years ago, Trinity has been the beneficiary of several bequests from the estates of some of its former members. Have you considered your legacy to Trinity?

Legacy gifts to Trinity are invested with the Presbyterian Foundation, and the interest earned is used from time to time for special projects and current needs of the congregation. Trinity's account balances with the Foundation totaled nearly \$69,000 as of January 1, 2021.

Russ Hobbs and Lee Duffus will be happy to meet with you to discuss the various ways that your legacy gift can be made.

If you have already made a bequest to Trinity in your will or estate plan, please let either Russ or Lee know of your intentions for its use so that your wishes can be respected and honored.



Fourth Tuesday Luncheons resume Tuesday, April 27th

Trinity Presbyterian presents

4th Tuesday

A Virtual Luncheon and Program

Frank Perry, Capitola Museum Curator & Santa Cruz Historian, will present a program on Henry Cowell's family history at our 4th Tuesday "Lunch" Program at Noon, April 27th, via Zoom. Frank has done interesting history programs for several past luncheons. Zoom access is available through the Trinity website www.trinitypressc.org "News & Events" tab. Please invite your family & friends to join us. For questions email geobunch@gmail.com.

Non Prophet Corner

Darrell W. Yeane

“Jesus and the Fire Truck”

Last month in East Jerusalem, not far from the city gate where Jesus entered Jerusalem on the day we Christians celebrate as Palm Sunday, a fire truck was stopped at an Israeli military “checkpoint” and held there by the Israeli soldiers for about half an hour. Meanwhile, the home where the fire had broken-out burned to the ground and 34 year old Ahman Dola died of smoke inhalation as he tried to rescue his wife and two year old child who were sleeping in the house.

Neighbors had called the Palestinian Fire Brigade, which deployed immediately after receiving the call. But despite clearly being in emergency mode with sirens blaring and lights flashing, the fire truck was blocked by the Israeli soldiers at the Qalandia checkpoint and held there for half an hour. By the time it was allowed to proceed, it was too late. The house had burned down, Ahmad Dola was dead and his wife and child were without a home.

This story is not uncommon in Palestine today. Nor were similar inhuman incidents that uncommon in Jesus’ day when the ruling Roman authority, following Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday riding on a donkey (the Jewish fire truck). The colonial rulers determined he was not one of them, detained him for a mock trial and put him to death.

Palestine today is ruled by a colonial power (Israel) just as in Jesus’ day (Rome), and its native people are treated as aliens in their occupied country. Military checkpoints are everywhere and thousands of Palestinian homes have been destroyed by the ruling government for capricious reasons to provide space for government assisted “settlers.”

Palestinian Christians have joined their Muslim neighbors and Jewish supporters in a non-violent resistance struggle that Christians the world over are invited to support. As a follower of Jesus, if you are interested in learning more about this “Palestinian fire truck at the Israeli checkpoint ” contact the author of this article.



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Presbyterian-Church/135556766517>



April 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday Service on website	2 Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk 10:00am	3
4 	5 Glenn's First Monday Book Group 7pm Zoom	6	7	8 WCE 10:30am Zoom Bible Study 1pm Zoom	9	10
11	12	13 Session 5:30 p.m Zoom	14	15 Bible Study 1pm Zoom	16	17
18	19 Book Club 7:00 p.m. Zoom	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Bible Study 1pm Zoom	23	24
25	26	27 4th Tuesday Luncheon via zoom	28	29 Bible Study 1pm Zoom	30	

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