

**March 22, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome to Worship  
Fifth Sunday in Lent**



“Unbind him”

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062  
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(831) 423-8995

**Prelude and Procession** *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*  
by Greg Sewell

Nicki Kerns

**Welcome**

Rev. Diane Ford

**Preparation for Worship**

Today we retell the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from death. Lazarus does not emerge fully free on his own—others are called to help unbind him. Where might we still feel bound? And where might we be called to help loosen what holds another in place? As we gather for worship, we open ourselves to the life God is calling forth in us—even now.

**Introit**

*Lead Me, Lord*, by John Stainer

Choir

**Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

Ron Weaver

We gather in the presence of the One who calls us by name,  
even from the depths of despair.

**We come, trusting that God's voice still reaches us.**

When hope feels buried and life seems lost,  
Christ stands at the threshold and calls us forth.

**We come, ready to hear and to rise.**

The Spirit breathes life where there was silence

**We come, to worship the God whose love is stronger than death.**

**\*Hymn GTG #315, *In the Midst of New Dimensions*, vs. 1,2,3,5 (See insert)**

*Please remain standing if able, and face the baptismal font*

**Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing** (*unison*)

Ron

**God of life, we confess that we often live as though death has the final word—holding on to fear, avoiding what is hard, and turning away when your Spirit calls us to trust and change. We keep parts of ourselves bound, and we leave others in their suffering, unsure of what to say or do. Forgive us, and meet us in our grief and our**

hesitation. Speak your life into what feels closed off within us, and gently unbind us, that we may walk in your grace, with compassion, courage, and hope.

*(Time for silent prayer)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness and New Life** *(responsively)*

Diane

Hear the good news: the voice of Christ still speaks life where there is despair, and hope where all seems lost. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited to rise and walk in newness of life. **Thanks be to God!**

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

“The Peace of Christ be with you.” **“And also with you.”**

*Let us share a sign of that peace with one another.*

*Children are invited to the front pew after the Passing of the Peace to see and hear today’s Scripture reading. Afterward, they may go to Sunday School.*

**Prayer of Illumination** *(responsively)*

Ron

God of life, open our ears to hear your voice, our hearts to trust your word, and our spirits to receive the life you are speaking even now. **Amen.**

**Reading:** John 11:1-44 Raising of Lazarus Storytellers  
Narrator: Ron; Jesus: Jerry; Disciple: Sandy; Martha: Ellen;  
Mary: Vickie

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Prayers of the People - God of Life and Hope, Hear our Prayer**

*Presbytery Unity Candle: We pray for Westview Presbyterian Church, Watsonville, and the Rev. Dan Hoffman.*

**Lord's Prayer** (*unison*)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Anthem**

*Shalom*, by Dan Forrest

Choir

*Peace I leave with you, peace I give to you,*

*Peace, peace, shalom.*

*Peace I give to you, peace I leave with you.*

*Peace, peace, shalom.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Diane Ford

**Offering Our Lives to God**

Diane

**Offertory**

*Berceuse*, by Lani Smith

Nicki

**\*Doxology** PH #591

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*) Diane  
**Spirit of God, take what we bring and breathe your life into it, that it may bring hope where there is despair and care where there is need. Unbind us from fear and send us to walk in love, participating in your renewing work in the world. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**\*Hymn GTG #840** *When Peace Like a River* vs. 1 and 4 (please see insert)

**\*Blessing and Charge**

**\*Amen** Choir

**\*Postlude** *Open My Eyes*, by Joel Raney Nicki

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**\*We invite all to stand in body or in spirit.**

*PH - Presbyterian Hymnal; GH – Gather Hymnal; GtG - Glory to God*

Cover image: Generated by AI. This drawing centers on the unbinding of Lazarus, with the burial cloths symbolizing what still holds us even as new life begins. Jesus is shown with compassion and grief, emphasizing his shared humanity. The pencil style keeps the focus on expression, texture, and the quiet, communal act of being set free.

**Special Thanks to Our “Sunday Saints”**

Pastor: The Rev. Diane Ford                      Music Director: Nicki Kerns  
Lector: Ron Weaver                                Flowers: Vickie Rutan  
Usher: Pete Halper                                Coffee Hour: Vickie and Dan Rutan  
Greeter: Sandy and Jerry Thormann  
Storytellers: Ron Weaver, Sandy Thormann, Ellen Bauerle, Jerry Thormann, and Vickie Rutan.  
Audio/Video/Zoom Techs: Chad Bell, Chuck Cobery, Rosie Bell

# Announcements

**Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church** Are you new today? We look forward to getting to know you. Please fill out a visitor welcome card and place it in the offering plate during the Call to Offering. After worship, join us for coffee/refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We're glad you're here!



**Lenten Evenings:** Join us for our final potluck of the season on Thursday, March 26, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Fireside Room. All are welcome!

**Join us as we celebrate the life of Betty Gangware** on Saturday, March 28, at 1 pm in the sanctuary with a reception to follow.

**Annual Deacon's Parish Potluck, Sunday, March 29.** All are invited to bring a dish to share and enjoy delicious food and terrific fellowship. You will also be able to visit with your deacon or meet your new one. See you there!

**Palm & Passion Sunday: A Journey of Praise and Reflection. Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 a.m.** Music and storytelling remind us that this day holds both joy and solemnity as we begin Holy Week.

**Maundy Thursday: From the Table to the Tomb, April 2, 6:00 p.m.** Join us for a special evening of movement, music, symbolism and prayer, as we walk the Stations of the Cross.

**Sweet Pea Quilting Group:** Please note upcoming revised meeting dates: March 14, and April 4, 11, and 25.

**Please continue to remember these people and situations in your prayers.**

- Ed Sams: recovering at home following difficult biopsy procedure and awaiting results.
- Sandy Thormann's grandson: joy that he has returned safely from his solo trip through Southeast Asia.
- Jonathon, the Lawton's grandson: traveling mercies.
- Vera Jean Bates: gratitude for her safe delivery.
- Geraldine, Nicki's sister, and her novice surgeon: successful heart procedure.
- World Peace: transformative relationships among and between people and nations.
- Vincent's friend: successful navigation of challenging problems.
- Diane's niece: gratitude for her visit.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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An OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

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Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 - 2:00 ❖ Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



### Session Elders

#### **Class of 2026**

Ed Sams (2<sup>nd</sup> T)

#### **Class of 2027**

Chad Bell (2<sup>nd</sup> T)

Chuck Cobery

Mayre Vincent

#### **Class of 2028**

Michael Christie (2<sup>nd</sup> T)

Ron Weaver

### Deacons

#### **Class of 2026**

Nancy Cobery

Kim Johnston

#### **Class of 2027**

Barbara Christie

Peter Halper (2<sup>nd</sup> T)

Marta Narus

Lorraine Vilardo (2<sup>nd</sup> T)

#### **Class of 2028**

Gigi Giannini

### Staff

Pastor: Rev. Diane Ford

Music Director: Nicki Kerns

Office Admin: Nicole Donovan

Custodian: Hortencia Martinez

### Committee Leads

**Clerk of Session**, Ellen

**Admin/Finance**, Chad

**Mission**, Chuck

**Nominating**, Ed

**Outreach**, Mayre

**Personnel**,

**Worship & Christian Education**

**(WCE)**, Ellen and Michael