

First Congregational Church of Santa Ana

A diverse Christian fellowship open to all and dedicated to singing God's praises, learning God's word, and loving one another on our journey of faith.

A Message from Pastor Leo

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Meaning -Save! Help! Palm Sunday is also entitled Passion Sunday. The followers of Jesus were passionate, exuberant, anticipating the events that will soon follow.

There were palm branches staged and distributed to spread along the path as the people assembled shouting, "Hosanna!" "Be our King!" This was STAGE I - Act I -symbolizing a victory and the triumphant entry of a King.

History reveals the events played out as planned. A stage donkey, a prearranged evening get-together, the performers had followed their script -all were minor props as Jesus positioned himself to Savior, 2000 years ago. 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' says the Psalmist over 1,000 years before Jesus (Ps 118:12).

Let us sing with passion today, 'Hosanna!' 'Hosanna!' Christ save us!

Hear the word of the Lord and be blessed.

Be Blessed!

Pastor Leo



A Grand Entrance

Decades ago, as English actress Gertrude Lawrence waited behind the curtain for a play to begin, the queen upstaged her by arriving at the royal box to much applause. “What an entrance,” Lawrence remarked, to which her friend, playwright Noel Coward, replied, “What a part!”

Jesus certainly made a grand entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, entering to adoring shouts of “Hosanna!” But worldly glory and fame weren’t his intent. Instead, our Lord knew that his Father had prepared a sacrificial role for him. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The humble yet courageous Son of God knew that danger, despair and death awaited — but that he must endure it all to fulfill prophecy for humanity’s sake.

The pageantry of Palm Sunday is a stark contrast to the role of Suffering Servant that Jesus faced a few short days later. Yet each event during Holy Week represents victory — for Jesus as well as for his beloved children.

Palm Sunday is a glorious day, so let us wave palms and shout, “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” The Savior has come. What an entrance! What a part!

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Quote of the Month “

“The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies.”

—Kate McGahan

Palm Sunday

Our church will celebrate Palm Sunday with a Drive-In service at 10:30 am. We will continue to follow COVID-19 protocols. Bring the children, bring a friend, or a neighbor to celebrate this beginning of Holy Week. Sue Stewart will be providing treats.

Maundy Thursday

Our church will have a zoom service to remember *The Last Supper* on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 pm. We will begin with a soup supper. Our dear member Linda Eslinger has provided us with a soup recipe for you to prepare at home. *Like Peter, I beg you, Jesus: Wash not only my feet, but all of me! (see John 13:9). Most of all, cleanse my heart and teach me how to love. Amen.*



Easter Sunday

We will celebrate Easter Sunday with a Drive-In service at 10:30 am. We will continue to follow COVID-19 protocols. Bring the kids, bring a friend, or a neighbor to celebrate the most important holiday of the year! April & the Castillo Family will host an egg hunt for our youth and Linda Eslinger will be providing Easter treats for all of us. *He is risen!*



An Easter Prayer

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

Holy Action Meeting

This month's Holy Action/Council meeting will be on Sunday, April 11th, following our service.

Eastern Association Spring Meeting

The Eastern Association Spring Meeting will take place on zoom on Saturday, April 17th, at 10:00 am. Please visit <https://easternassociation.org> for the details.

Holy Hilarity!

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket. Knock, knock. *Who's there?* Hatch. *Hatch who?* God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? *Eggs-ercise!*

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."

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Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, April 26th, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Family News

Our young member, Chloe, is now officially Chloe Castillo! She legally changed her name from Chavez to Castillo. We are all very happy for her family!

FCC Graduates



Mark your calendars because we have a couple of graduates ready to walk! On May 25th, Chloe Castillo will be graduating from High School, and Samantha Castillo will be graduating from 8th grade. Congratulations graduates of 2021!

Strengthen & Renew!

Renew! The **Strengthen the Church Offering** reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. This offering is coming to FCC in May 23rd. More details to come!

Lay Readers Needed

Please select a month that best complements your schedule.

~~January - Darvic Aquino~~

~~February - Jim Wueve~~

~~March - Susan Semotan~~

July - Steve Semotan

August - Samantha Castillo

September - Mark Davis

April- Patricia Lynch

May- Linda Eslinger

June- Chloe Castillo

October

November

December

GOOD
THE _____ LETTER
NEWS _____

is published monthly by

**First Congregational Church
of Santa Ana**

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Content and images are printed
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Newsletternewsletter.

**Worship services are held
virtually** every Sunday at 10:30
a.m. on Zoom.

Deadline for copy: The 15th day
of the month prior to publication.
Editor reserves the right to edit for
content and space.

Scripture Readings:

April 1: Ex 12:1-10, 11-14
Maundy Ps 116:1-2, 12-19
Thursday 1 Cor 11:23-26
Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 2: Isa 52:13-53:12
Good Ps 22, Heb 10:16-25
Friday Jn 18:1-19:42

April 3: Lam 3:1-9, 19-24
Holy Ps 31:1-4, 15-16
Saturday Jn 19:34-42

April 4: Acts 10:34-43
Easter Ps 118:1-2, 14-24
Sunday 1 Cor 15:1-11
Mk 16:1-8

April 11: Acts 4:32-35
Ps 133
1 Jn 1:1-2:2
Jn 20:19-31

April 18: Acts 3:12-19
Ps 4
1 Jn 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25: Acts 4:5-12
Ps 23
1 Jn 3:16-24
Jn 10:11-18

April 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Alleluia! CHRIST IS ALIVE!				1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Soup & Service on Zoom Happy Birthday Jim Weuve!!	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday
4 Easter Sunday 10:30 am Drive-In & Zoom Worship	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 am Zoom Worship 11:45 am Holy Ac-tion/Council Mtg.	12	13	14 Happy Birthday Charlene Marley!!	15	16	17
18 10:30 am Zoom Worship	19	20 Happy Anniversary April & Darvic Aquino!!	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 am Zoom Worship	26 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	27	28	29	30	