



THE REDWOODS LOG

March & April 2024

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

We have journeyed through Lent together and are approaching Holy Week. Thank you to those who participated in our Ash Wednesday/Sunday service on March 3 with the imposition of ashes. Thank you to those who have given Lenten reflections during our Sunday services: Beverly Carter, Jan Salas, Pam Hooper, & Bill Ryder. It is a true blessing to hear from members of our congregation about aspects of their faith journeys that have led them to Redwoods. I was surprised when I worshiped at 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City on Sunday, March 17, and they, too, had a time for Lenten reflections from members! We will have one more Lenten reflection this Sunday.

Thank you to Rev. Keenan Kelsey for the daily Lenten devotionals. It has been a powerful and meaningful addition to our Lenten season.

As we approach Holy Week, I wanted to remind you of our Good Friday meditation time. The sanctuary will be open on March 29 from noon-3pm to commemorate the time Christ hung on the cross. You may come as it is convenient for you to pray, meditate, and light a candle.

As this mid-week contemplative time may not be convenient for all to attend, we will be offering a Palm/Passion service this Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 am. This will take us on the journey beginning with the joy of singing and waving of palms as Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through the following events of the week which lead to his crucifixion. Palm/Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Our Easter Sunday service will celebrate the resurrection of Christ with our tradition of flowering the cross. Please bring flowers if you are able to help decorate the cross at the start of the service. We will have an Easter egg hunt during Sunday school for the children. Our Easter service will be followed by fellowship and our flowered cross will be brought outside the sanctuary for the neighborhood to enjoy.

Holy Week and Eastertide Blessings,

Rev. Stephanie Ryder

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." John 11:25

WORSHIP IS EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M.

For those unable to attend the Sunday service in person, the live stream link is available at 9:55 a.m.

[Click here for the YouTube live stream \(if viewing the LOG online\)](#)

The link is also available by going to the 'Join us' page on our website at www.redwoodspres.org

Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Contact the church office at office@redwoodpres.org to inquire about joining the study. All are welcome!

Deacon's Corner

Peace and Advocacy for the Poor



Dorothy Day (1897-1980) gives us a clear example of a contemplative activist. In her case, she began with activism, converted to Catholicism around age 30, and eventually lived out her two callings in a powerful and effective way. My friend John Dear, himself a contemplative activist, writes this about Dorothy Day:

An activist and journalist living in New York City's Greenwich Village, [Dorothy Day] fought for labor rights, women's rights, and an end to World War I. In 1927, after her daughter Tamar was born, she was filled with gratitude and received the gift of faith. She decided that the two of them should be baptized in the [Catholic] Church. In response, her partner promptly left her.

It was 1932, and Dorothy didn't know what to do or how to be a radical Catholic Christian. While attending a march against hunger in Washington, D.C., she prayed that God would open up a way for her to practice her radical politics as a devout Catholic. Her

prayer was answered in the person of Peter Maurin, a French peasant intellectual who was waiting for her back in New York. Within a few months, they founded the Catholic Worker Movement [on May 1, 1933].

The Catholic Worker Movement is alive and well today, with over 200 active communities. Catholic Workers commit to voluntary poverty, prayer, nonviolence, and hospitality to those in need. They also protest and take action against systems of injustice, war, racism, and all forms of violence. Robert Ellsberg, who worked with Dorothy Day in New York, continues:

[Dorothy Day's] spirituality and her social witness were equally rooted in the radical implications of the Incarnation. In Christ God assumed our humanity. And we could not worship God without honoring God's image in our fellow human beings. We should feed them when they were hungry; shelter them when they were homeless. We should not torture them; we should not kill them.

In the 1950s Day and the Catholic Worker took on a more activist profile. She was repeatedly jailed for refusing to take shelter during compulsory civil defense drills in New York City. In the 1960s her activities reflected the turbulence of the times—protesting the Vietnam War, fasting in Rome during the Second Vatican Council to advance the cause of peace. She was last arrested while picketing with the United Farm Workers in 1973 at the age of seventy-five.

By this time she was widely honored as the radical conscience of the American Catholic church. But her life was not primarily occupied by activism or protest. She was a woman of prayer, beginning each day with meditation on scripture, attending daily Mass, and reciting the breviary [daily psalms, scripture readings, and prayers]. By and large, her life was spent in very ordinary ways, her sanctity expressed not just in heroic deeds but in the mundane duties of everyday life. Her "spirituality" was rooted in a constant effort to be more charitable toward those closest at hand.

[Listen to Fr. Richard read the prayer](#) (link accessible from our newsletter's web-version).

Center for Action and Contemplation
Monday, July 13, 2020



Lenten Reflection

Recited during the March 3, 2024 Service

Over the years I have shared many reflections and minutes for mission in this beautiful church setting. Normally, I am finishing my thoughts on the drive here, sometimes adding notes during hymns just before speaking. Today I'm sharing my reflection through a document, written before Sunday, a new experience for me to actually do the homework ahead (on time). It is good to have new experiences and I am grateful to be able to speak with you this way.

I have been part of Redwoods since the 60's. 1960 – 2024, that is a lot of Lenten Sundays spent here in worship and reflection. I remember learning about fasting as described in Isaiah 58:6 - "this is the kind of fast I'm after, to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is sharing your food with the hungry..." In most years, I've tried to learn how to make a fast meaningful in this way.

While there is a myriad of ways to fast, normally we think of forgoing food as fasting. Thinking of food leads me to think of eating a meal. And then I think of gathering at a table to share a meal. We have had tables in our homes for millennia. Tables are also a vital part of our church community. Each month we Christians gather at the communion table. We have many committee meetings at the table in the library. Most Sundays we enjoy coffee hour at tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Today's gospel, John 2:13 -22, is also about tables, the money lenders' tables in the temple. Many of you may have heard me say this is one of my favorite bible passages, the upending of the tables by Jesus. I'm filled with awe and hope when I hear about Jesus chasing out the merchants and taking radical action to sanctify his Father's house. I am also reminded of a poster that used to hang in the union hall in San Francisco. Before I retired, I spent many hours at the hall as a union activist, working with other activists toward the goal of pursuing justice for our workers.

But, lest I make it sound too virtuous to be believed, let me add we spent as many hours in political in-fighting as we did in working for justice. (Such is the nature of the labor movement.) The poster was bright, colorful and quite beautiful to look at. The slogan on the poster was "At the table of peace will be bread and justice." In quiet moments between grievances, arguments and meetings, I would contemplate the poster and the thought behind the words. Bread and justice: these words epitomize my feelings about a meaningful fast. As Isaiah said "share your food with the hungry." My prayer this Lent is to use quiet contemplative time to understand how to help everyone come to the table.



Jan Salas

♪ Music Notes ♪

Recently, I was able to attend a special event held locally at San Anselmo’s beautiful San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS). Last year I discovered the existence of this beautiful place up on the hill above Kensington Avenue by joining with a Saturday breakfast group from Redwoods to visit and walk the labyrinth on the grounds there. It is serene and secluded, peaceful and is surrounded by gorgeous views of nature, has a stunning terrace, beautiful chapel and some of the old stone buildings have the appearance of turreted castles.

The event I attended was the welcoming address for the Kodaly Center, which has just found its new home within the campus of Redlands University on site at the Seminary here in San Anselmo. The Kodaly Center was based for years at Holy Names University (HNU) in Oakland where recently the campus had to close and the property was sold. The Kodaly Center now begins a new chapter of teaching and training in its world-renowned method of music education for children. The inaugural festival this year is to held at the end of April. Four Bay Area children’s choirs have been invited to sing at this event. I am thrilled that one of the younger groups I am teaching for the Marin Girls Chorus will be participating.

While many people were saddened by the closure of HNU, it’s an exciting growth phase for the seminary and it bears witness to the good news that new life continues to unfold and emerge, sometimes born of difficult moments of closure. I am reminded of the final lyrics in ‘The Rose’ by Amanda McBroom:

“Just remember in the winter, far beneath the bitter snow, lies the seed that with the sun’s love, in the spring becomes the rose.”

Happy Easter!

Denise

Dominican Choral Spring Concerts

You are invited to attend the Dominican Chorale Spring concert(s) where Rev. Stephanie Ryder will be performing as an Alto! The event will feature works from Bach, Vivaldi and Mozart.

Please let Stephanie know if you would like to attend and she will reserve a ticket for you!



Thursday, April 25, 2024 7:30 pm Angelico Concert Hall
20 Olive Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901

Sunday, April 28, 2024 4:00 pm San Anselmo Presbyterian Church
72 Kensington Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960





Easter Events

Good Friday:

From 12:00pm – 3:00pm, our sanctuary will be open for Prayer, Meditation and Candle lighting.

Flowering of the Cross:

You, your family and friends are all invited to the Flowering of the Cross this coming Easter, March 31st during our 10:00am service.

Easter Egg Hunt:

Additionally, our annual Children’s Easter Egg hunt will be held shortly after the beginning of service.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Potluck Breakfast & Speaker

Please come attend our Saturday Potluck breakfast featuring speaker Beverly Carter.

Bring yourself and a dish to our Library on Saturday, March 23rd at 9:30 am. The presentation will begin at 10:00am.

Gorder’s Bean Soup

At our Souper Bowl Sunday potluck salad luncheon, we have often been blessed by Jan Salas' Lentil Soup, which has been featured as a recipe in a prior LOG newsletter. This year, the Gorder's Bean Soup was made, the recipe included here!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups mixed beans (see image below)
- 2 tbsp. salt
- 8 oz. chopped ham or ham hocks
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 28 oz. can crushed, peeled tomatoes
- 1 red pepper or ½ - 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 1 or more garlic cloves, chopped
- Salt and pepper (to taste)



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash beans, place in large pot and cover with water. Add 2 tbsp. salt and soak overnight.
2. The next day, drain the beans, add 2 quarts of water and ham. Simmer for 2.5 – 3 hours (1 hour seems to work okay, too).
3. Then, add the onion, tomatoes, red pepper, garlic, and seasonings (to taste). Simmer for another 30 minutes.

NOTES

The maker of the soup on Souper Bowl Sunday also added 1 Tbsp. curry powder and 1 butternut squash, roasted and cubed. Feel free to experiment to your preferences and tastes (Polly Gorder said that was ok)!



One Great Hour of Sharing

*For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing
has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing
to create a world where all needs are met.*

Each day during Lent consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill (a "gift") in your fish coin bank or a jar, and end by saying the prayer of the week or one of your own.

Prayer: *Gather us all around your banquet table, O God, with all who hunger and thirst. May we join together to share the abundance you've intended for all. Amen.*

Sunday: Health is one of our most important needs. Say a prayer for each person your family knows who has been or is now sick and for quality medical care for everyone.

Monday: Climate change is forcing farmers worldwide to either adjust their farming methods or move away. Give a gift for each type of animal you saw today.

Tuesday: Thousands of frontline workers risk their lives daily during a health crisis. Say a prayer for the doctors, nurses and other medical staff who care for the sick.

Wednesday: Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Give a gift for each baby/toddler you know.

Thursday: When roads are closed and electricity is off, going to see a doctor can be hard. Give a gift for each person in your family who has been able to see a doctor in the past year.

Friday: It is estimated that 1 in 5 kids in the U.S. will experience hunger this year. Pray that no child will ever go to sleep at night hungry.

Saturday: Over 23 million Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy fresh food. Give a gift for each grocery store nearby.

Join us in worship on the Sunday after Easter when we bring our gifts to share with those in need in our community and throughout the world.



Thank You

- ♥ Our immense gratitude to the service and care of Rev. Stephanie Ryder.
- ♥ Thank you to Jeremiah Jenkins for his March 17 worship service.
- ♥ Thank you to Rev. Keenan Kelsey for her beautiful daily Lenten Devotional e-mails.
- ♥ Much appreciation for the generous contributions to the February 11 Souper Bowl.
- ♥ Thank you to Rev. Charlotte Cramer for her Adult Education interactive classes on Homelessness.
- ♥ Thank you to Tani & John Girton for installing and updating our new microphone system.
- ♥ Thank you to our musicians: Music Director Denise Wharmby and the Parke Kurtz Bell Choir (Beverly Carter, Diane Forster, Debbie Lundberg, Gabrielle Putzi, Nancy Rademacher and Elani Wallace).
- ♥ We appreciate the help with the Sunday live-streaming by Denise Wharmby.
- ♥ Thank you to Keenan Kelsey for festively decorating the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards and the Sanctuary liturgical adornments.
- ♥ We thank our February and March Greeters: Clay Wiens, Gabriele Putzi, Ginger Gmahling, Bonnie Kaiser and Conrad Williams.
- ♥ And we thank our February and March Liturgists: Keenan Kelsey, Conrad Williams, Clay Wiens, Tani Girton, Nancy Rademacher and Mark Chambers.
- ♥ We appreciate those who keep things running: Rev. Stephanie Ryder, Mark Chambers, Jan Salas, Aranda Dill, the Deacons, Committee Chairs, and everyone who participates in the family of Redwoods Presbyterian Church.
- ♥ Thank you to Nancy for organizing outing to see *Our Town* by the Ross Valley Players on Sunday, February 25 (see photo below!)



Attendees to 'Our Town' (left to right): Conrad Williams, Sara Laureyns, Ginger Gmahling, Bonnie Kaiser, Gabriele and Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher.

Calendar

Saturday, March 23	9:30 am 10:00 am	Saturday Potluck Breakfast Speaker Beverly Carter
Sunday, March 24 <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, March 26	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, March 29 <i>Good Friday</i>	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Prayer, Meditation, & Candlelight in the Sanctuary
Sunday, March 31 <i>Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, April 2	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, April 5	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, April 7 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, April 9	10:30 am 4:00 pm	Bible Study Session Meeting
Friday, April 12	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, April 14 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, April 16	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, April 19	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, April 21 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, April 23	10:30 am	Bible Study
Thursday, April 26	7:30 pm	Dominican Chorale at Angelico Hall, San Rafael
Friday, April 26	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, April 28 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	Worship Fellowship Dominican Chorale at First Presbyterian San Anselmo

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

Happy Birthday to our March and April birthday members and friends!

March 4	Sara Laureyns
March 6	Katie Zwarg
April 10	Elani Wallace
April 11	Rev. Stephanie Ryder

April 12	Nancy Rademacher
April 23	Crosby Doyle
April 24	Frank Wood
April 28	Liam Wallace Aranda Dill

